SATURDAY SPECIAL / G1

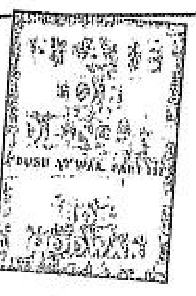
After 20 years, what now, Regine Velasquez?

BUSINESS / B1

Tender offer raises Sy stake in EPCIB to 85.6 percent

WORLD / A24

Bush accused of hiding true Iraq facts



SPORTS / A25

Back-in-focus Blue Eagles go for UAAP title clincher today

'Milenyo' helps wipe out dengue, for now

By Christine O. Avendano

THOSE DENGUE-CAUSING MOSQUITOES BEcame the unexpected but welcome casualties of Typhoon "Milenyo."

Health Secretary Francisco Duque said yesterday that the normal breeding grounds of mosquitoes, some of which carry the deadly dengue virus, had been disturbed, thanks to the storm.

MILENYO/ A18

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Saturday, September 30, 2006 ★★ 8 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 294 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Scary flight may make JDV sidestep Cha-cha

By TJ Burgonio

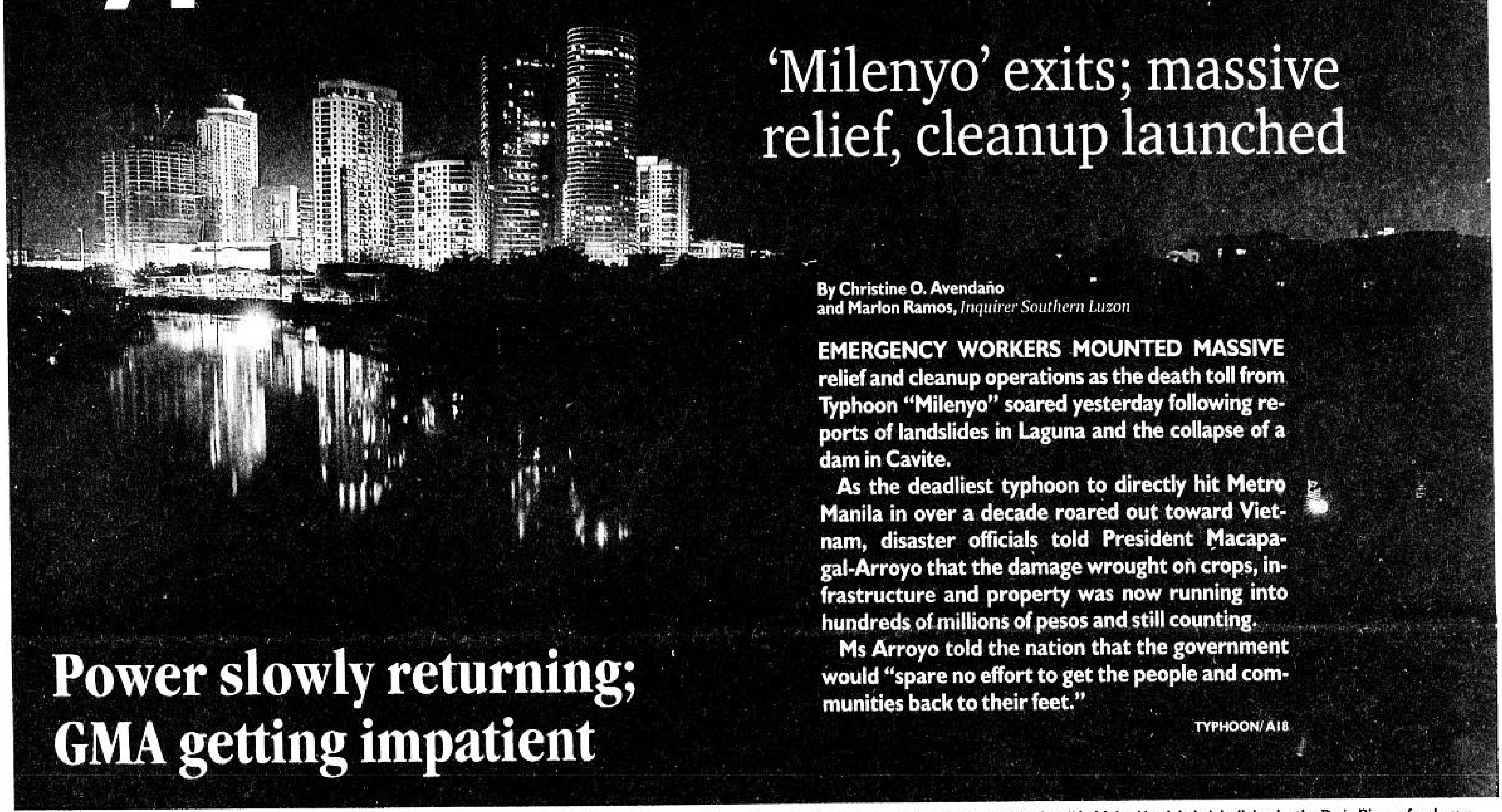
LAHAT NA
IPAPANGAKO
WAG LANG
MA-TEPOK!

THE PROSPECT OF MEETing one's Maker can turn around a person.

After surviving a scary flight to Iloilo, Speaker Jose de Venecia might change his mind about rewriting

SCARY / A8

Typhoon death toll soars



'Milenyo' exits; massive relief, cleanup launched

By Christine O. Avendaño and Marlon Ramos, *Inquirer Southern Luzon*

EMERGENCY WORKERS MOUNTED MASSIVE relief and cleanup operations as the death toll from Typhoon "Milenyo" soared yesterday following reports of landslides in Laguna and the collapse of a dam in Cavite.

As the deadliest typhoon to directly hit Metro Manila in over a decade roared out toward Vietnam, disaster officials told President Macapagal-Arroyo that the damage wrought on crops, infrastructure and property was now running into hundreds of millions of pesos and still counting.

Ms Arroyo told the nation that the government would "spare no effort to get the people and communities back to their feet."

TYPHOON/ A18

AS DARKNESS engulfs most of the metropolis, the high-rise condominiums of Rockwell in Makati bask in bright lights by the Pasig River a few hours after Typhoon "Milenyo" wreaked havoc on Thursday. Big areas of Metro Manila and Luzon remained without electricity yesterday. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Power slowly returning; GMA getting impatient

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Ronnel W. Domingo

NO LESS THAN PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO IS GETting impatient at the slowness of efforts to restore power in Luzon, particularly in blackout-weary Metro Manila, Malacañang said yesterday.

More than 24 hours after Typhoon "Milenyo" ravaged Metro Manila, Southern Luzon and Bicol, both the Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) and the National Transmission Co. (Transco) could not say when power would return to full normalcy as they blamed the sheer number of fallen trees, electric poles, billboards and electric towers for hampering restoration operations.

Energy officials said they had restored 46 percent of power services in the Luzon grid as of 4 p.m. yesterday, mostly in northern and Central Luzon, following a system-wide blackout due to Milenyo.

At the same time, they said most parts of southern Luzon that bore the brunt of the storm was still without power.

Officials declined to say when they expected power to be restored in the other affected areas, saying only that crews continually worked round-the-clock to complete repair activities.

But they said they hoped to bring back power in hardest hit Bicol region after four more days, or by Oct. 3.

Trade and Industry Secretary Peter Favila said that both Transco and Meralco could not make a strong commitment on when power would be fully restored.

"The President felt the target for restoration was too slow because she wanted the power to be restored before the next storm hits," said Favila, citing a Pag-asa report showing another weather disturbance was headed toward the country and may hit landfall this Sunday.

Favila said the power shortage had hampered his agency's efforts to monitor prices because his agents were having a difficult

POWER/ A18

Storm brewing over killer billboards

A WOMAN is dwarfed by fallen trees along Broadway Avenue in New Manila, Quezon City, the morning after Typhoon "Milenyo" did its work on Thursday. Authorities said 15 percent of Metro Manila's vegetation was damaged. RAFFY LERMA

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Juliet Labog-Javellana

THE OWNERS OF GIANT BILLboards dotting Metro Manila highways are in for a double whammy.

President Macapagal-Arroyo will soon issue tougher regulations on size, material and location, and her staunch ally, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, is gearing for war against the purported stalwarts of "corporate greed."

Santiago yesterday called on Metro Manila mayors to slap multimillion-peso damage suits on the owners of billboards that fell and killed people as strong winds brought by Typhoon "Milenyo" battered the metropolis on Thursday.

Santiago also said the Supreme Court should investigate the judges who issued restraining orders against mayors and officials of the Metropolitan

STORM/ A19

Junta taps ex-general as new Thai PM

FORMER Thai military chief Surayud Chulanont in 2002 photo. AP

BANGKOK, THAILAND—COUP LEADers have chosen a former Army commander and close adviser to Thailand's powerful monarch to lead the country until promised elections next year, the auditor general was quoted yesterday as saying.

The coup leaders, meanwhile, strengthened their grip on power by sidelining officers in the military who had been key supporters of now-deposed Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, in an annual reshuffle of top-ranking officers announced also yesterday.

The coup makers accused Thaksin of corruption and seized power in a bloodless takeover Sept. 19 while the premier was abroad, vowing to name a civilian prime minister within two weeks.

A formal announcement on an interim leader was expected in coming days but the new ruling military council has hinted that its choice for the position was Gen. Surayud Chulanont, 62, a highly regarded retired officer.

Auditor General Jaruvan Maintaka revealed the choice in comments to reporters late Thursday that were carried on an official government website yesterday.

"Yes, definitely, General Surayud is the prime minister. He is the suitable person," Jaruvan was quoted as saying by the Public Relations Department.

However, she later denied making those comments. When telephoned about the details on Friday, she said: "I didn't say so."

It was unclear why she appeared to backtrack, but she may have realized she had preempted an official announcement. All morning Bangkok newspapers carried headlines saying Surayud would probably head the new government.

His appointment was expected to

JUNTA/ A19

NURSING EXAMS

Palace goes easy on 'retake' order

By Christine O. Avendaño and TJ Burgonio

NOW MALACAÑANG IS HOLDing its horses on the planned retake of the tainted nursing board examination until the Court of Appeals rules on a petition for the investigation of the Professional Regulation Commission and the blocking of the licensing of th exam passers.

Executive Secretary Eduard Ermita yesterday said the PR had reminded Labor Secretar Arturo Brion of the petitio lodged in August at the appellat court by a group of nursing teachers and students.

PALACE/ A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2006

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

Text us your feedback: Inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Western section of Central and Southern Luzon and Western Visayas will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of Luzon will have mostly cloudy skies with rainshowers and thunderstorms while the rest of the country will be cloudy with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE PAGASA

COMPILED BY KATE PEDROSO, PDI RESEARCH/09/29/06

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

HALLELUYAH! WHERE DID THEY COME FROM!
A group of nuns emerges from a clump of fallen trees along New Manila in Quezon City a day after Typhoon Milenyo unleashed its fury.

PHOTO BY RICHARD CUARESMA/CONTRIBUTOR

POLITICAL KILLINGS

US rights group hits slow probe

NEW YORK—AN INQUIRY BY THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT into hundreds of killings and disappearances of left-wing activists and members of the media has made little visible progress amid a climate of fear, a rights watchdog said yesterday.

US-based Human Rights Watch said there was deep public mistrust in the government's efforts to investigate the killings and disappearances since President Macapagal-Arroyo took power in 2001.

Lack of cooperation by military authorities is also hampering the investigation, the rights group said.

The group called on Ms Arroyo's government to restate its commitment to the rule of law and provide real protection and redress for ordinary citizens.

"The government's special investigation in the killings must be effective. Otherwise, justice is in jeopardy in the Philippines," Sophie Richardson, deputy Asia director at Human Rights Watch, said in a statement.

"Prompt and thorough investigations, credible prosecutions and public access to justice should be the norm, not the exception."

The five-member Melo Commission, created by Ms Arroyo, began interviewing senior army officers earlier this month.

But the commission headed by a retired Supreme Court justice has made little visible progress as it nears its Oct. 7 deadline to solve the cases, Human Rights Watch said.

The number of political activists killed in the Philippines has risen dramatically this year.

London-based rights group Amnesty International estimated that at least 51 activists have been killed during the first six months of this year, many gunned down by masked men on motorcycles, compared with 66 for all of 2005.

AI said in August it was gravely concerned that soldiers and police could be involved.

Human Rights Watch said the Philippine government should publicly instruct military officers to cooperate with police investigations, speed up processing of witness protection program applications and publicly oblige military units to refrain from targeting civilians in counterinsurgency efforts.

"The government's rhetoric must now be matched by concrete action," said Richardson. "Too many people are getting away with murder."

Left-wing and human rights groups have pointed a finger at military operatives.

But Armed Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. last week denied any involvement of the military in the murders and abductions.

He said communist rebels were to blame.

Former Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, who commanded the 7th Infantry Division, also disputed the accusations, calling them communist propaganda.

Palparan, dubbed the "executioner" by critics, testified at the commission.

Human Rights Watch said its research in the Philippines uncovered deep public distrust of the government's investigative effort, widespread fear among witnesses and victims' families, and a climate of fear in areas where the killings have occurred.

The human rights group Karapatan said at least 752 people, including 319 left-wing activists, have been killed and about 180 others have disappeared in alleged state-sponsored abductions since 2001.

Richardson said it was not surprising that Filipinos were losing confidence in the security forces and government. The government has failed to provide protection and redress for ordinary citizens, and has not even acknowledged the need to fix the system, she said.

Reuters, AP

'CURB TELEBABAD'

Gov't paid P3.5B in phone bills last year; internet use urged

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE GOVERNMENT'S TELEphone bill reached a whopping P3.48 billion last year, prompting Palawan Rep. Abraham Kahlil "Baham" Mitra yesterday to urge state officials to "curb *telebabad*" (long phone conversations), particularly over mobile phones.

A longer-term solution, he said, would be the adoption of new digital communications technology, such as the "Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP), which allows one to make long distance or mobile telephone calls for free.

Mitra is the author of a bill calling for the adoption of VoIP communications, which could result in huge savings for the cash-strapped government.

A breakdown of government's 2005 communication expense showed the national government spent P1.852 billion, local governments spent P824.1 million, and government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs) spent P803 million.

Data from the Commission on Audit provided by Mitra's office also showed that mobile phone charges in the national government had risen by 21 percent to P305.1 million in 2005, while those of local governments jumped by 47 percent to P240.3 million during the same period.

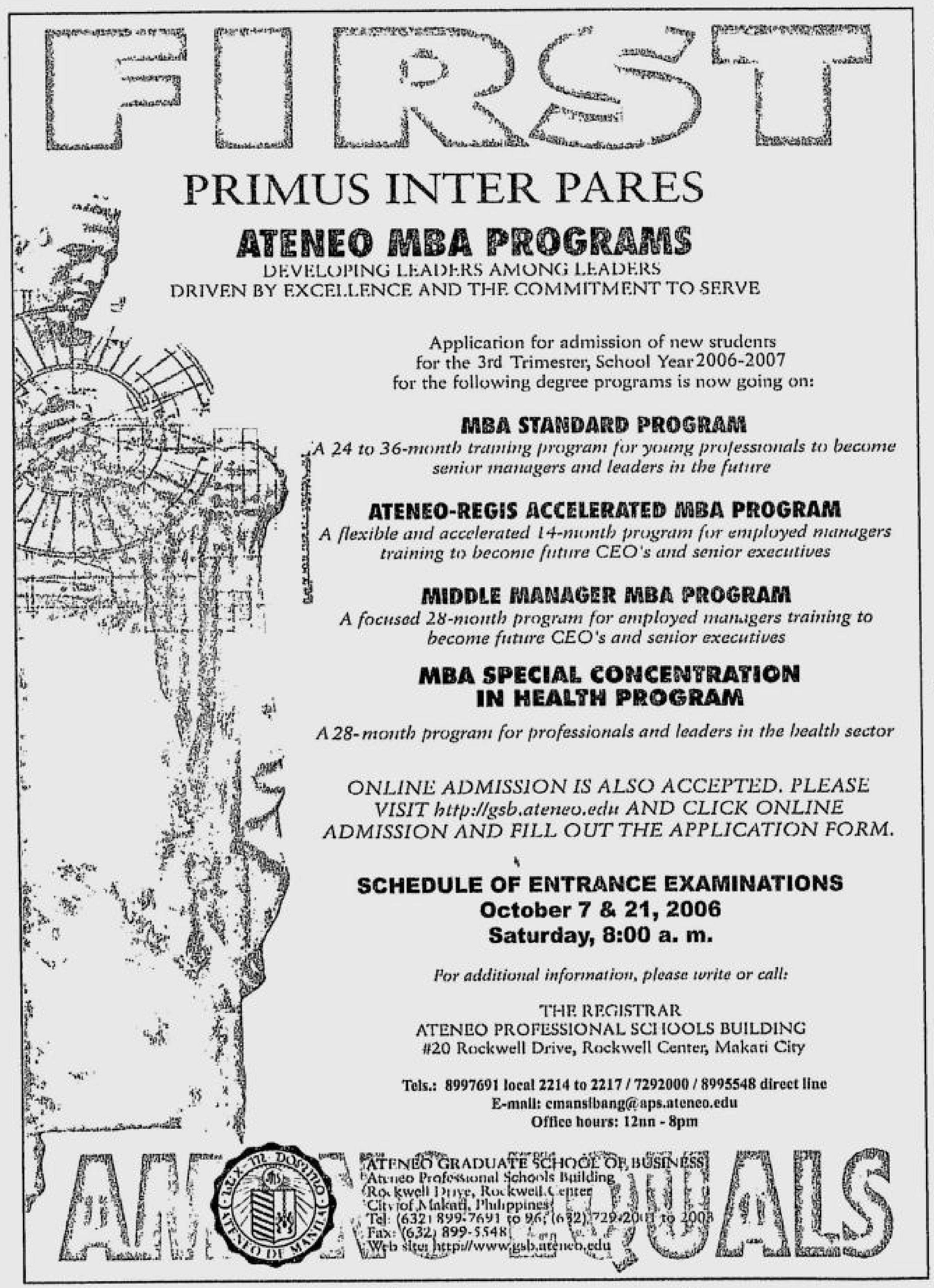
Landline phone use still accounted for the bulk—about P2 billion—of the government communication bill but mobile phone use registered the steepest rise over the past two years. Other items on the communications list are postage and deliveries, cable, satellite, telegraph and radio expenses. A relatively new expense item is for "internet fees."

It is this last expense that makes Mitra believe that the bureaucracy is ripe for a shift to VoIP.

Internet penetration, which has come with increasing phone and computer densities, has created an environment conducive to VoIP, Mitra said.

"Any move to aggressively promote VoIP use in government offices should, however, be accompanied by a campaign on the right use of that free technology so it won't be abused by civil servants. We don't want them to be addicted to chatting or to Friendster," he said.

Sans VoIP, however, state employees have to lessen, if not cut unnecessary calls, said the lawmaker.



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AMONG EQUALS

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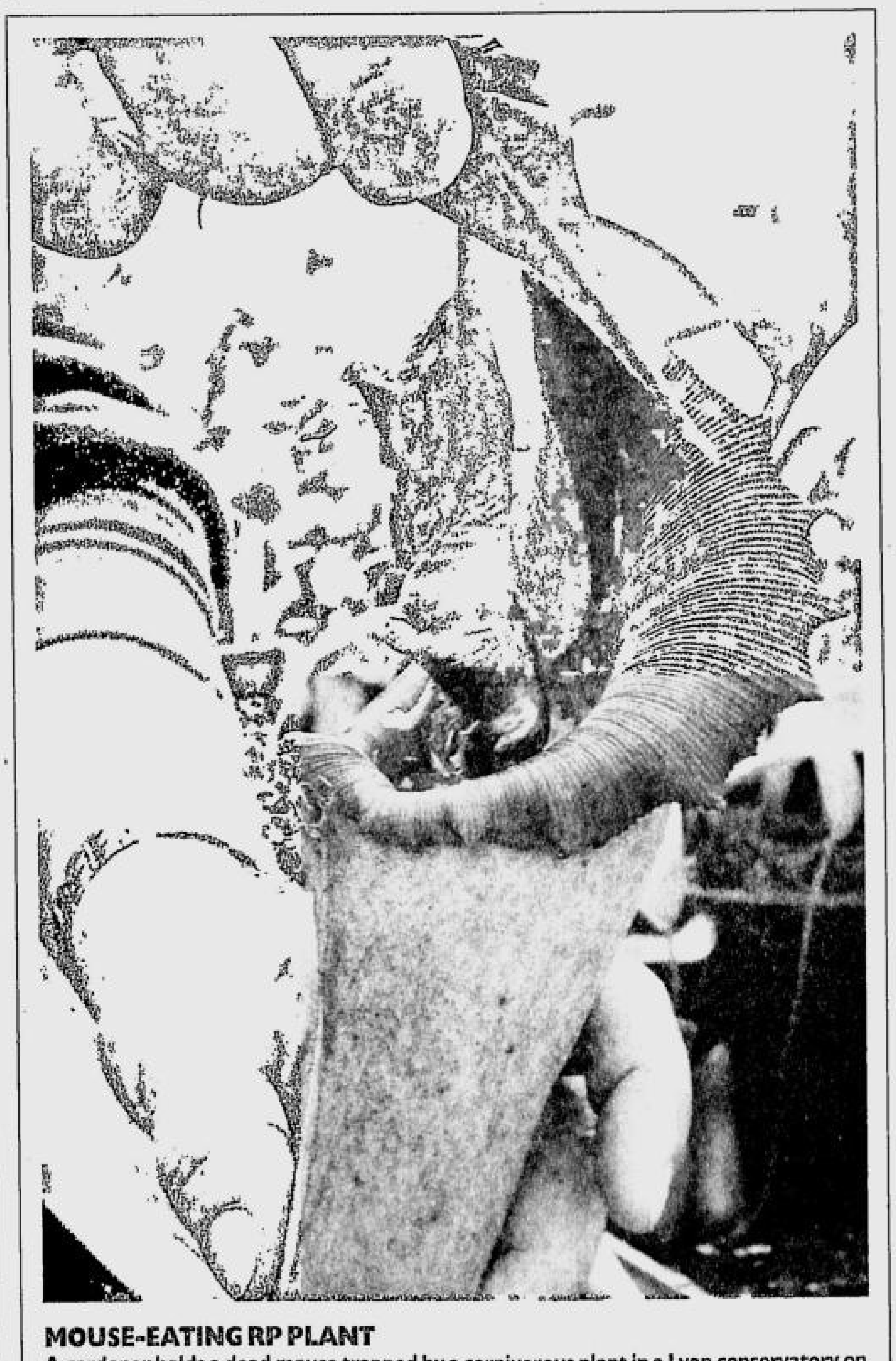
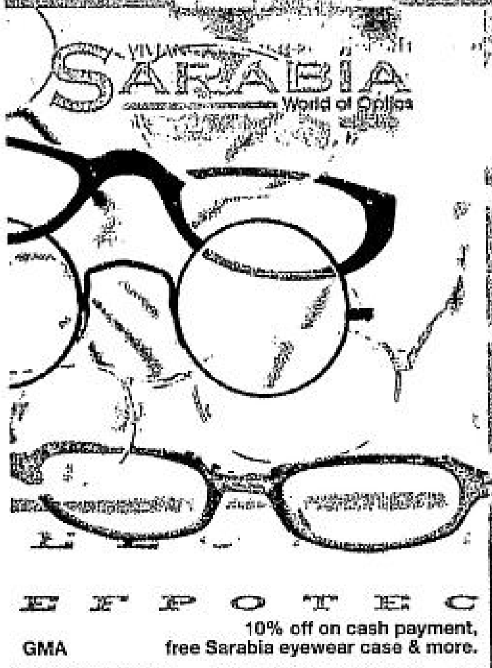


MOUSE-EATING RP PLANT
A gardener holds a dead mouse trapped by a carnivorous plant in a Lyon conservatory on Thursday. This photo, released Friday by Lyon City hall, proves for the first time what scientists thought: the Nepenthes truncata, a carnivorous plant from the Philippines, can trap small animals.

AP

"Gusto ko bukas lumuhod ang mga tala!"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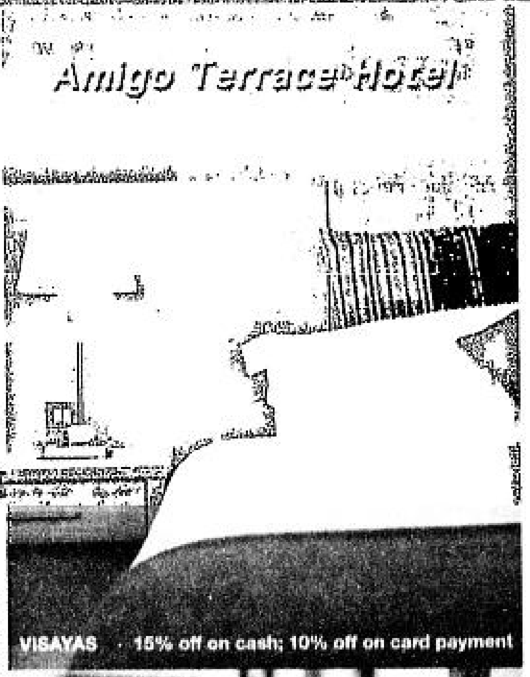
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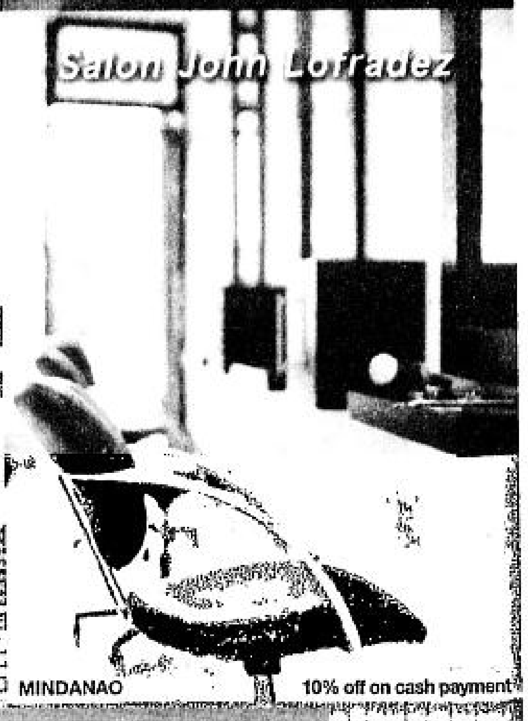
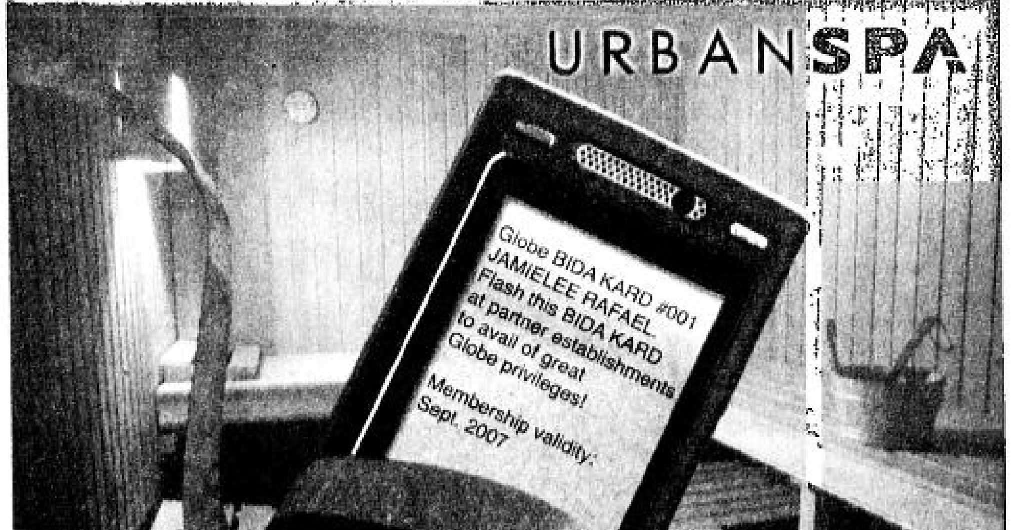

Salon John Lofradez
MINDANAO 10% off on cash payment



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High court orders reinstatement of over 2,000 Napocor employees

By Tetch Torres
INQ7.net

AT LEAST 2,370 EMPLOYEES OF THE National Power Corp. (NPC) can return to work after the Supreme Court voided two of the government-owned board resolutions terminating their services.

In a 12-page decision, the First Division, through Associate Justice Minita Chico-Nazario, said that the National Power Board (NPB) resolutions 2002-124 and 2002-125 were invalid because they lacked the necessary number of votes for their adoption.

The high court said only the votes of then Department of Energy secretary Vincent Perez Jr., former budget secretary Emilia Boncodin and Napocor-OIC President Rolando Quilala were valid while the other votes cast by representatives of other board members were held invalid.

"This, to our mind violates the duty imposed upon the specifically enumerated department heads to employ their own sound discretion in exercising the corporate powers of the NPC," the high court said.

It pointed out that department secretaries cannot delegate this duty to a representative because "the enactment of the assailed resolutions involves the exercise of discretion and not merely a ministerial act."

"The rule that requires an administrative officer to exercise his own judgment and discretion does not preclude him from utilizing, as a matter of practical administrative procedure, the aid of subordinates, as long as it is the legally authorized official who makes the final decision through the use of his own personal judgment," the high court said.

The two resolutions were passed by the NPB pursuant to the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001 (EPIRA Law), which took effect June 26, 2001. This law authorized the restructuring of the NPC and the selection and placement of personnel in the NPC table of organization.

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BARON
SEE POSTERS AND FLYERS FOR DETAILS

Disaster execs rely on text messaging, radio for reports

WITH POWER AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS systems down, disaster officials rely on text messaging and military radio to communicate.

Anthony Golez, officer in charge of the Office of Civil Defense, said the regional disaster coordinating offices had generators, but this was not true in all provincial and municipal offices.

"We usually communicate through email or fax, but because there is no electricity, everything is by text," Golez said. "We also use radio communications of the Armed Forces."

Field offices borrow or use battery-operated single side band radios of the military units in their areas to relay updates to the mother unit, Golez said.

He said that in the Bicol region, barangay and municipal local officials used cellphones to communicate. When cellphones fail, officials have to personally check the situation, he said.

Camp Aguinaldo was also badly hit, with only select buildings having power generators.

Dona Pazzibugan

THE MORNING AFTER
A Philippine Marine helps in the massive cleanup efforts along Edsa a day after typhoon "Milenyo" pounded Metro Manila. RAFFY LERMA

Ecop seeks revision of law covering student-workers

By Jerome Aning

THE EMPLOYERS Confederation of the Philippines (Ecop) yesterday asked the government to broaden the law covering students working for companies during summer and Christmas vacations.

Ecop President Rene Soriano said employers have endorsed several bills seeking to amend Republic Act No. 7323, which allows companies employing at least 35 people to take in student workers aged 15 to 25.

RA 7323 established a program, which is being supervised by the Labor Department, under which a company may pay the student-worker 60 percent of his salary in cash.

The remaining 40 percent would be paid by the government through a so-called education voucher that the student may use to pay his tuition and books.

Soriano said that small companies or micro-businesses employing 10 or less workers should also be covered by the law since such firms constitute about 91 percent of total establishments in the formal sector.

"It is a fact that many of them (small companies) operate on a marginal basis with little capital and have difficulty complying with labor standards, particularly the minimum wage law," he argued.

Ecop also sought the inclusion of national government and local government units, as well as government-owned or controlled corporations in the program.

Soriano said that while high school students may avail of the program during their summer and Christmas vacations, other students enrolled in tertiary, vocational or technological schools should be allowed to do so in any time of the year.

He also proposed that students employed in activities related to their course be awarded equivalent credits in their academic units as may be determined by appropriate government agencies.

Quirino High '66 to mark 40th year

THE QUIRINO HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1966 is celebrating its 40th anniversary with a grand reunion at Casa Jose, 16 Katipunan Ave., White Plains, Quezon City, on Dec. 29, 2006, starting at 4 p.m., with the theme Great to be Ruby!

Proceeds of the reunion will go to the QHS Class of 1966 Educational Assistance Program for indigent, deserving students.

The officers of the QHS Class of 1966 Alumni Association who attended the planning meeting were Cynthia Ulanday Santiago, Corazon Rarela Dequeña, Veronica Pedragoza Tan, Joey Lapid, Erlinda Cunamay Lapid, Gaudencio Ferrer, Lucia Velasco Ferrer, Mila Carel, Victor Manarang, Bernie de Guzman, Butch Arcilla, Romy Agatep, Carmencita Lota Agatep, Lerma Nidoy Piquero, Jane Lubaton Roble. For details, call Viring Tan, 681-0103 or 09176464056; 09183501456.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, September 30, 2006
25th Week in Ordinary Time

Jerome
1st Reading: Eccl 11:9-12:8
Gospel: Luke 9:43-45

While all were amazed at everything Jesus did, he said to his disciples, "Listen and remember what I tell you now: The Son of Man will be delivered into human hands." But the disciples didn't understand this saying; something prevented them from grasping what he meant, and they were afraid to ask him about it.

Commentary

God will bring us to judgment. Sobering reality to hear. We are to remember our Creator and look to the world that has been made along with us to teach us wisdom and the reality of life bound to death. God gives all breath in life and takes it from all as well. This Creator is the Son of Man, who will give his life so that everything might live forever and be renewed and blessed again and again. Do we understand this yet? Are we still reacting in fear to the words of invitation to come and follow the Son of Man whose power is steeped in creation and life, but not in the power of men and women? Lord, help us see the meaning of you, Son of Man.

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OUR LADY of the Rosary of Manaoag

Our Lady of Manaoag feast celebrated Sunday

THIS YEAR'S FEAST OF OUR LADY OF THE Rosary of Manaoag will be held on Oct. 1 and will focus on the venerated and miraculous old-age image of Our Lady.

After the Eucharistic celebration at 4 p.m. tomorrow, Sunday, the miraculous image of the virgin will be carried in a procession around the poblacion so residents and visitors of the town can receive her blessings.

"More than anything, we need her benediction as we are going through tough times. We need the renewal of the spirit so much stressed in the episodes of the rosary and the Lady," said Rev. Fr. Patricio A. Apa, OP, prior of the convent.

Health Advisory
National Center for Health Promotion
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Beware, Dengue Kills!
Mag 4-S Against
DENGUE

Search and Destroy
Alisin ang mga bagay na maaring pag-ipunan ng tubig at pangitlugan ng lamok tulad ng lumang gulong, lata, bote at tansan. Linisin ang mga alulod at palitan ang tubig sa flower vase minsan sa isang linggo. Hindi nangingitlog sa maruming tubig tulad ng kanal at estero ang lamok na sanhi ng DENGUE.

Self-protection Measures
Magsuot ng mahabang pantalon at polo. Dapat gumamit rin ng mosquito repellant sa araw.

Seek Early Consultation
Kung may lagnat na ng 2 araw at may rashes sa balat, pumunta at komunsulta agad sa pinakamalapit na health center o ospital.

Say No to Indiscriminate Fogging
Mag-fogging lamang kung may dengue outbreak.

DOH it na!

May sapat na supply ng dugo ang Department of Health. Para sa blood assistance, tumawag sa Philippine Blood Center (PBC) tel. no. 926-0367 at 924-6601 loc..337

PBC, 24 oras na maglilingkod sa inyo

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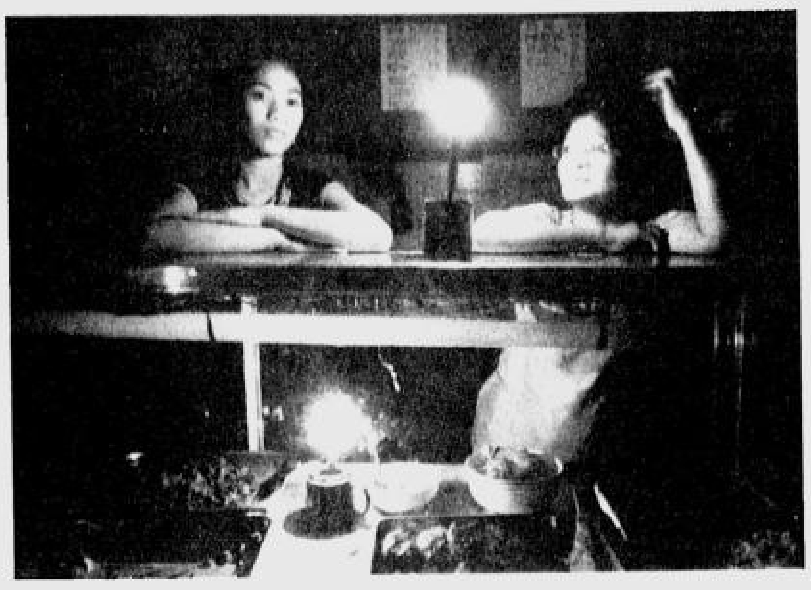

BLEAK PROSPECTS Canteen workers wait for customers under candlelight after Metro Manila was plunged into darkness by Typhoon "Milenyo" Thursday. AFP PHOTO/ ROMEO GACAD

House to block any attempt to expand Moro land in South

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES will block any attempt to expand the Muslim-led regions in Mindanao without a plebiscite being held in the areas to be affected.

Mindanao-based legislators—Deputy Majority Leader Antonio Cerilles of Zamboanga del Sur and Davao City Rep. Vincent Garcia—said any move to expand the Muslim Mindanao areas not provided for in the Constitution would be "non-negotiable."

The government cannot be accused of insincerity by the Moro rebels and should not bow to any unconstitutional demands of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front separatist group, they said.

"The government has Armed Forces to defend the Constitution and protect our people. We've always sincerely and seriously pursued the peace talks," said Cerilles.

Mohadger Iqbal, the MILF chief negotiator, recently warned that the MILF was ready to go to war against the government because of the unresolved issue of ancestral domain in the talks.

Murad Ebrahim, chair of the MILF central committee, accused the government of being insincere in its stand on the issue of Muslim territories and ancestral domain in the Tripoli Agreement.

Under the 2001 Tripoli Agreement, which set out plans for a cease fire and a political solution to the conflict with the MILF, a splinter group of the main Moro National Liberation Front insurgency, the government agreed to recognize the claims for ancestral domain of the Muslims in Mindanao.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said the peace talks were at a stalemate right now on the issue of territory.

MURAD

CERILLES

He said the government rejected the Moro rebels' demand to be given control of a larger territory.

During the recent talks in Kuala Lumpur, the MILF demanded that 1,000 villages be included in the future Bangsamoro entity but the government would agree to only 600.

Cerilles noted that during the peace negotiations with the MNLF, which concluded its own peace treaty with the government in 1996, the then MNLF chair Nur Miusuari supported a plebiscite on the proposed inclusion of 13 provinces in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

However, only four provinces chose to become part of the ARMM in the 1989 referendum.

Cerilles said the Constitution provides that all affected sectors have to be consulted.

"The present Constitution leaves to the people of a certain area the matter of deciding whether or not it would become part of an autonomous region or not. That is explicitly stated in Art. 10, Sec. 18," he said.

Garcia urged the MILF to remain faithful to the peace process.

"Both the government and MILF have invested so much in the talks. We should not waver in our goal to achieve lasting peace," he said.

"Perhaps there should be adjustments made to ensure the ancestral domain issue is resolved in accordance with all laws and the wishes of the residents in all the areas concerned," said Garcia, who is vice chair of the House committee on national defense and security.

Davao Oriental Rep. Joel Mayo Almario, vice chair of the House committee on Mindanao affairs, said the issue of ancestral domain was naturally contentious because it would affect the "territorial integrity" of the Philippines.

"We urge the MILF not to take a hard-line position on this matter. It should instead be open to compromise. The efforts of government and the MILF to find a peaceful settlement will all be wasted if the MILF gives up now and opts for war," he said.

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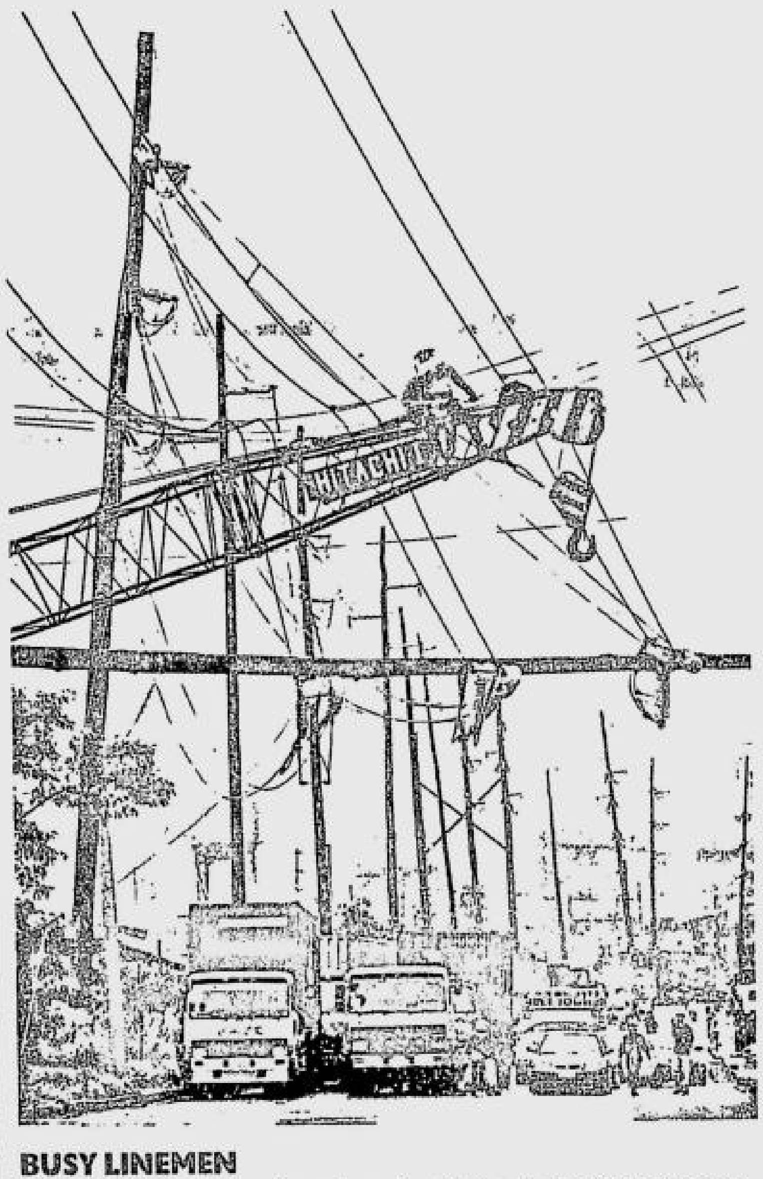


BUSY LINEMEN
Linemen speed up clearing and repair of fallen electricity posts along Road 10 in Navotas during President Macapagal-Arroyo's visit Friday.
LYN RILLON

Resort owners assure tourists Bora normal

BORACAY RESORT OWNERS yesterday assured tourists that the situation in the world-famous island resort was normal despite the on-going legal battle over the classification of lands.

Nenette Aguirre-Graf, president of the Boracay Foundation Inc., issued the statement because resort owners received a lot of queries from local and foreign tourists planning to visit the island.

"Apparently they have the wrong impression from media reports that there is turmoil in Boracay," Graf said.

"We are very much worried about this incorrect perception and we would like to convey that it is business-as-usual for all the resorts and establishments here," she said.

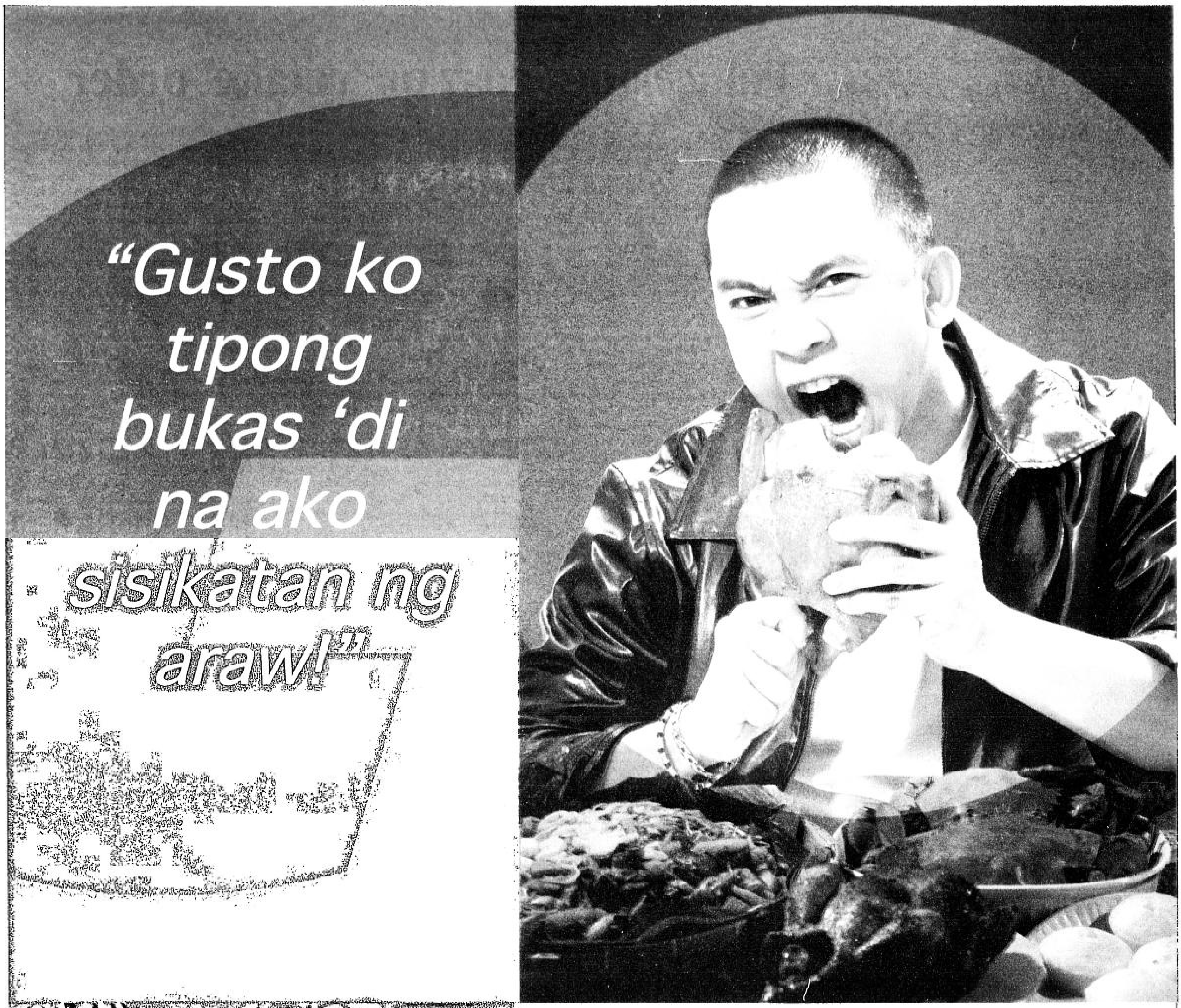
"We hope that the wrong perception of what's happening in Boracay will be corrected in future media reports. We assure everyone that everything is normal here," she added.

She said the protest rally held two weeks ago by the residents and stakeholders was in support of the privilege speech of Aklan Rep. Florencio Miraflores denouncing the government plan to bid out properties in the island.

"We cannot understand the one-track mind of these people regarding this matter when the law provides for other means of acquiring a title for your property," Graf said.

"Instead of helping the people who invested so much in the island, they are doing exactly the opposite, causing fear and instilling a lot of insecurity among the residents and stakeholders," she said.

"Now, should be the time for us to show that our country can offer the best and safest destination in this part of the world because of what's happening in other destinations in the region. We should be attracting and enticing tourists to come here rather than scaring them away," Graf added. *Philip C. Tubeza*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Scary flight may make JDV sidestep Cha-cha

From page A1

the 19-year-old Constitution to set up a parliamentary government.

De Venecia yesterday morning took a Cebu Pacific flight to Iloilo from Manila for a speaking engagement. But before the plane could land at the Iloilo airport, it encountered a "mechanical problem," and was diverted to Cebu's Mactan Airport for repair.

On the same flight were Sen. Franklin Drilon and Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, who are both from Iloilo.

As soon as the flight diversion was announced, fear gripped the passengers.

"We did not know what was wrong with the plane; we thought the landing gears had malfunctioned," Drilon recounted in a phone interview.

When the plane touched down at Mactan airport two hours later without a hitch, a relieved De Venecia happily told his two prominent fellow passengers that he had "promised a lot to the Lord just so we would be safe," Drilon recounted.

When the senator asked the Speaker if the promises included backing away from Charter change, De Venecia merely smiled.

"He did not deny it. I took it to mean that he will no longer push for Cha-cha because we landed safely. Gonzalez is my witness," Drilon said. "He (De Venecia) promised the Lord he will not push for Cha-cha if he lands safely."

It turned out that the plane's alternate power source had malfunctioned. After it was repaired, it took off for Iloilo and landed there safely at around 11:30 a.m.

Bold forecast

Until early this week, De Venecia, the main proponent of Charter change via a constituent assembly, has been issuing bold, optimistic forecasts about the administration's move to amend the 1987 Constitution and replace the current presidential-bicameral system with parliamentary-unicameral system despite legal, constitutional obstacles.

Last Monday, on the eve of the oral arguments on a people's initiative to amend the Charter before the Supreme Court, De Venecia predicted that a plebiscite on a Constitution would be held as early as January next year if the Charter change "express" were not derailed.

The Speaker was confident that the high court would uphold the people's initiative backed by the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines and its citizens' ally, Sigaw ng Bayan, in view of the close to 9 million signatures gathered in support of this mode of amending the Charter.

"Assuming the Supreme Court will decide in 45 days, including any motion for reconsideration, a 60-day campaign period will follow. So it (plebiscite) should be [held] around January," De Venecia told the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines.

Palace goes easy on 'retake' order

From page A1

The CA has issued a temporary restraining order on the oath-taking of those who passed the exam held on June 11-12, which was marred by the purported leak of test questions.

"[The petition] could very well bear on the decision on the level of retake—where, who, when and how much," Ermita told reporters.

"Going by the rule of law, we have to consider that there is such a case in the CA. We cannot take final action as to the extent of the retake and who should retake because we still have to see how the CA [will rule on the matter]," he said.

At the Cabinet meeting on Tuesday, President Macapagal-Arroyo decided to order a retake of the board exam and directed Brion and PRC officials to thresh out the details.

On Thursday night, she told nursing graduate Mark Soriano, who had passed the controversial exam, that the retake would be held "before the regular exam" scheduled in December, and that it would be "subsidized" by the government.

"It will cover only Tests III and V, anyway," Ms Arroyo told Soriano.

She added: "As of now, that's the best decision. There's no way to determine who did not participate [in the cheating]."

Decision in principle

Ms Arroyo's order for a retake earned both praise from whistle-blowers and protest from exam passers.

The lawyer of the group with a pending petition at the CA pointed out that the order imperiled their Sept. 20 motion asking the court to hold the PRC liable for a whitewash.

But Ermita yesterday said the order for a retake was "a decision in principle by the President."

"We told you we have to consider the integrity of the [nursing] profession because it will affect our other professions [here and] abroad," he said.

According to Ermita, the Palace planned to have the government subsidize the retake, and was prepared to allocate P52 million from the national budget.

"Once the retake is ordered, the national government will fork out the money for the examination," he said.

Reminded that the next regular nursing board exam was scheduled in December, Ermita said he did not think the CA would take that long to rule on the case.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said he reminded Ms Arroyo and his colleagues of the pending petition at the Tuesday Cabinet meeting.

Should the court rule that its TRO on the mass oath-taking is permanent, this will mean that the passers will have to retake the exam, "and in effect that's in line with the policy of Malacañang," Gonzalez said on the phone.

But should the court rule otherwise, this will raise questions and will see the case being elevated to the Supreme Court, he said.

Gonzalez said he believed that the President would abide by the court's decision.

"You have to yield to the court," he said.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye called anew for the cooperation of all concerned in the planned retake.

"We make a firm assurance, however, that the architects of this scam who have messed up the honor of the nursing profession will be brought to justice," he said in a statement.

Right step

Senators expressed support for a retake, but urged the President to go further by going after those behind the leak of test questions.

Sen. Richard Gordon, who had proposed a retake from the start, said Ms Arroyo's order was a "step in the right direction."

"Even if there's cheating in our country, we have shown to the world that we're different because we can fix it," Gordon told the INQUIRER.

Sen. Manuel Roxas II said the planned retake was "a major step" toward restoring confidence in the system of accreditation and regulation of professionals.

"Never mind if the decision came late, it's still the right thing to do," Roxas said in a statement.

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. agreed, saying: "Thank God that she made that decision. She has to look after the integrity of the profession. I'd go along with her on this."

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, chair of the civil service committee that had inquired into the scandal, proposed that the government finance the retake considering that the Board of Nursing (BON) had been established as the source of the leak.

"[The retake] should be free of charge. This was not the fault of the examinees, but the government's. Who was the original source of the leak, anyway?" Biazon said in an interview.

Added Roxas: "The test takers are the true victims here. The government should provide financial support because those who took the exam fell victim to a failure of governance."

After conducting an internal inquiry into the leak, the PRC had recommended to the National Bureau of Investigation the filing of charges against two BON directors.

Those who benefited

During the budget hearings, PRC chair Leonor Tripon-Rosero stuck to her position against a retake.

Congress subsequently slashed the P14-million special retake fund from the PRC budget in the recently approved P46.9-billion supplemental budget.

Sen. Franklin Drilon, chair of the finance committee, yesterday said the President could tap her contingency fund or the PRC's own savings to fund the retake.

Gordon, who had filed the resolution seeking an inquiry into the scandal, also proposed that the retake cover only those examinees who had benefited from the leak.

He cited the clients of the Inress review center on Recto, Manila, who were fed select questions and answers during their two-day final review, and those of the Gapuz review center in Baguio City who were given photocopies of the Inress clients' handwritten notes.

Gordon said anybody else who felt "tainted by the leakage" should feel free to retake the exam.

He also said the retake should be limited to Tests III and V—which dealt with medical-surgical and psychiatric nursing—where the leaked items supposedly surfaced.

But beyond the retake, the government should prosecute individuals and shut down review centers found liable, Gordon said.

"What [Ms Arroyo] should do now is punish the guilty parties. We should go after those who are responsible, collect them, and bring them before the bar of justice," he said, adding:

"If there are schools involved, we should shut them down."

Roxas called for the sacking of PRC officials, for their purported failure to "make the system work properly."

"Heads must roll at the PRC," he said.

Gordon had earlier called on Rosero to resign for giving the go-signal for the oath-taking of the exam passers before the Senate and the NBI could wrap up their investigations.

Protest rallies

At Fuente Osmeña in Cebu City, two Top 10 placers in the June exam joined some 400 other passers in a rally protesting the retake order.

Maelaurece Plaza (4th place) expressed appreciation for Cebu Mayor Tomas Osmeña's offer of P5,000 in financial aid for each of those who would retake the exam.

But she said: "Our effort and agony during the review and the examination and until the release of the results cannot be paid for."

Chulou Penales (10th place), president of the Tapok-Tapok sa Nanaghiusa Batok sa Retake, maintained that the Cebuanos and the rest of the examinees from the Visayas and Mindanao did not cheat in the exam.

Among the protesters were Jericho Canillas and a number of his batch mates who had found nursing jobs at the Cebu Doctors Hospital.

Canillas said the issue of cheating had not affected their employment chances.

"When I applied, I was not discriminated against. They just asked [for] my rating and a PRC certification that I had passed the exam. Most of my batch mates are also employed. I hope the President will hear us," he said.

Another 200 exam passers held a similar protest action at the Bacolod City public plaza.

Wearing black T-shirts, the Negrense nursing graduates signed a manifesto calling on Ms Arroyo to reconsider her retake order. *With reports from Jolene R. Bulambot, Jhunnex Napallacan and Carla P. Gomez, Inquirer Visayas*

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In case of **CLOSELY CLUSTERED TOP BIDS** (defined as having the second highest bid which is not below 90% of the highest bid), the opening of the sealed bids will be immediately followed by an open bidding in which all bidders whose bids are not below 80% of the highest bid may participate. **The minimum increase in the open bidding should not be lower than P10,000.00.**

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	MINIMUM BID PRICE
1. 4 comm'l lots; TA: 492-sqm	P. Burgos and San Agustin Sts., Makati	P25,600,000
2. Unit 3B - 66.11 sq.m.	Thercon Condo, N. Garcia St., Makati	P2,314,000
3. 2 ind'l lots; TA: 17,729 sq.m.	Poblacion, Rosario, Cavite	P39,597,000
4. Res'l lot; LA: 1,818 sq.m.	San Isidro, Magarao, Camarines Sur	P1,527,000
5. Blk. 24 Lot 8 - 455 sq.m.	Las Terrazas Subdivision, Brgy Ma - a Davao City	P1,365,000
6. Blk. 24 Lot 9 - 407 sq.m.	Las Terrazas Subdivision, Brgy Ma - a Davao City	P1,221,000
7. Blk. 24 Lot 14 - 479 sq.m.	Las Terrazas Subdivision, Brgy Ma - a Davao City	P1,437,000
8. Blk. 24 Lot 15 - 479 sq.m.	Las Terrazas Subdivision, Brgy Ma - a Davao City	P1,437,000
9. Blk. 24 Lot 16 - 400 sq.m.	Las Terrazas Subdivision, Brgy Ma - a Davao City	P1,200,000
10. Blk. 24 Lot 17 - 400 sq.m.	Las Terrazas Subdivision, Brgy Ma - a Davao City	P1,200,000
11. Blk. 24 Lot 18 - 400 sq.m.	Las Terrazas Subdivision, Brgy Ma - a Davao City	P1,200,000
12. Blk. 24 Lot 19 - 400 sq.m.	Las Terrazas Subdivision, Brgy Ma - a Davao City	P1,200,000
13. Blk. 24 Lot 21 - 400 sq.m.	Las Terrazas Subdivision, Brgy Ma - a Davao City	P1,200,000
14. Blk. 24 Lot 24 - 400 sq.m.	Las Terrazas Subdivision, Brgy Ma - a Davao City	P1,200,000
15. Blk. 24 Lot 25 - 400 sq.m.	Las Terrazas Subdivision, Brgy Ma - a Davao City	P1,200,000
16. Blk. 18 Lot 13 - 487 sq.m.	Las Terrazas Subdivision, Brgy Ma - a Davao City	P2,338,000
17. Blk. 17 Lot 3 - 436 sq.m.	Las Terrazas Subdivision, Brgy Ma - a Davao City	P2,093,000
18. Blk. 17 Lot 4 - 451 sq.m.	Las Terrazas Subdivision, Brgy Ma - a Davao City	P2,165,000
19. Blk. 17 Lot 5 - 424 sq.m.	Las Terrazas Subdivision, Brgy Ma - a Davao City	P2,035,000
20. Blk. 17 Lot 6 - 455 sq.m.	Las Terrazas Subdivision, Brgy Ma - a Davao City	P2,184,000
21. Blk. 17 Lot 7 - 447 sq.m.	Las Terrazas Subdivision, Brgy Ma - a Davao City	P2,146,000
22. Blk. 17 Lot 8 - 433 sq.m.	Las Terrazas Subdivision, Brgy Ma - a Davao City	P2,078,000
23. Blk. 17 Lot 9 - 455 sq.m.	Las Terrazas Subdivision, Brgy Ma - a Davao City	P2,184,000
24. Blk. 15 Lot 9 - 518 sq.m.	Las Terrazas Subdivision, Brgy Ma - a Davao City	P1,968,000
25. Blk. 15 Lot 10 - 583 sq.m.	Las Terrazas Subdivision, Brgy Ma - a Davao City	P2,215,000
26. Blk. 8 Lot 2 - 428 sq.m.	Las Terrazas Subdivision, Brgy Ma - a Davao City	P1,284,000
27. Blk. 8 Lot 4 - 353 sq.m.	Las Terrazas Subdivision, Brgy Ma - a Davao City	P1,059,000
28. Blk. 8 Lot 5 - 326 sq.m.	Las Terrazas Subdivision, Brgy Ma - a Davao City	P978,000
29. Blk. 8 Lot 6 - 312 sq.m.	Las Terrazas Subdivision, Brgy Ma - a Davao City	P936,000
30. Blk. 8 Lot 7 - 311 sq.m.	Las Terrazas Subdivision, Brgy Ma - a Davao City	P933,000
31. Blk. 8 Lot 8 - 323 sq.m.	Las Terrazas Subdivision, Brgy Ma - a Davao City	P969,000
32. Blk. 8 Lot 9 - 349 sq.m.	Las Terrazas Subdivision, Brgy Ma - a Davao City	P1,047,000
33. Blk. 4 Lot 17 - 368 sq.m.	Las Terrazas Subdivision, Brgy Ma - a Davao City	P1,104,000
34. Blk. 1 Lot 1 - 691 sq.m.	Las Terrazas Subdivision, Brgy Ma - a Davao City	P3,040,000
35. Blk. 1 Lot 2 - 642 sq.m.	Las Terrazas Subdivision, Brgy Ma - a Davao City	P2,761,000
36. Blk. 1 Lot 3 - 642 sq.m.	Las Terrazas Subdivision, Brgy Ma - a Davao City	P2,761,000
37. Blk. 1 Lot 4 - 642 sq.m.	Las Terrazas Subdivision, Brgy Ma - a Davao City	P2,761,000
38. Blk. 1 Lot 5 - 642 sq.m.	Las Terrazas Subdivision, Brgy Ma - a Davao City	P2,761,000
39. Blk. 1 Lot 6 - 642 sq.m.	Las Terrazas Subdivision, Brgy Ma - a Davao City	P2,761,000
40. Blk. 1 Lot 7 - 642 sq.m.	Las Terrazas Subdivision, Brgy Ma - a Davao City	P2,761,000
41. Blk. 1 Lot 8 - 642 sq.m.	Las Terrazas Subdivision, Brgy Ma - a Davao City	P2,761,000
42. Blk. 1 Lot 9 - 642 sq.m.	Las Terrazas Subdivision, Brgy Ma - a Davao City	P2,761,000
43. Blk. 1 Lot 10 - 642 sq.m.	Las Terrazas Subdivision, Brgy Ma - a Davao City	P2,761,000
44. Blk. 1 Lot 11 - 1,141 sq.m.	Las Terrazas Subdivision, Brgy Ma - a Davao City	P4,906,000
45 Blk. 1 Lot 13 - 640 sq.m.	Las Terrazas Subdivision, Brgy Ma - a Davao City	P2,752,000
46. Blk. 1 Lot 14 - 640 sq.m.	Las Terrazas Subdivision, Brgy Ma - a Davao City	P2,752,000
47. Blk. 1 Lot 15 - 640 sq.m.	Las Terrazas Subdivision, Brgy Ma - a Davao City	P2,752,000
48. Blk. 1 Lot 18 - 640 sq.m.	Las Terrazas Subdivision, Brgy Ma - a Davao City	P2,752,000
49. Blk. 1 Lot 19 - 640 sq.m.	Las Terrazas Subdivision, Brgy Ma - a Davao City	P2,752,000
50. Blk. 1 Lot 20 - 640 sq.m.	Las Terrazas Subdivision, Brgy Ma - a Davao City	P2,752,000
51. Blk. 1 Lot 21 - 640 sq.m.	Las Terrazas Subdivision, Brgy Ma - a Davao City	P2,752,000
52. Blk. 1 Lot 22 - 640 sq.m.	Las Terrazas Subdivision, Brgy Ma - a Davao City	P2,752,000
53. Blk. 1 Lot 23 - 640 sq.m.	Las Terrazas Subdivision, Brgy Ma - a Davao City	P2,752,000
54. Blk. 1 Lot 24 - 875 sq.m.	Las Terrazas Subdivision, Brgy Ma - a Davao City	P3,763,000
55. Blk. 1 Lot 25 - 824 sq.m.	Las Terrazas Subdivision, Brgy Ma - a Davao City	P3,543,000
56. Blk. 1 Lot 26 - 720 sq.m.	Las Terrazas Subdivision, Brgy Ma - a Davao City	P3,096,000
57. Res'l lot - 443 sq.m.	Las Terrazas Subdivision, Brgy Ma - a Davao City	P1,329,000
58. Res'l lot - 459 sq.m.	Las Terrazas Subdivision, Brgy Ma - a Davao City	P1,377,000

For the complete description of Item Nos. 1-58 including bidding forms, you may look for May or Jhoanna of the Special Assets Department (SPAD) 30/F, Land Bank Plaza, 1598 M.H. Del Pilar cor. Dr. Quintos Sts., Malate, Manila.

Prospective bidders are enjoined to inspect the above-listed properties as well as legal status of the title before submitting their bids. The sale of the properties shall be on "AS-IS-WHERE-IS" basis. The winning bidder shall take possession of the awarded property without seeking assistance from the Bank. The award in favor of the winning bidder shall be subject to the approval of the LBP approving authorities.

If for any reason the above-mentioned date is declared a non-working holiday, the public bidding shall be held on the next working day at the same time and place aforementioned.

Landbank reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality therein, and to accept the bid most advantageous to the Bank. The decision of Landbank shall be final and binding.

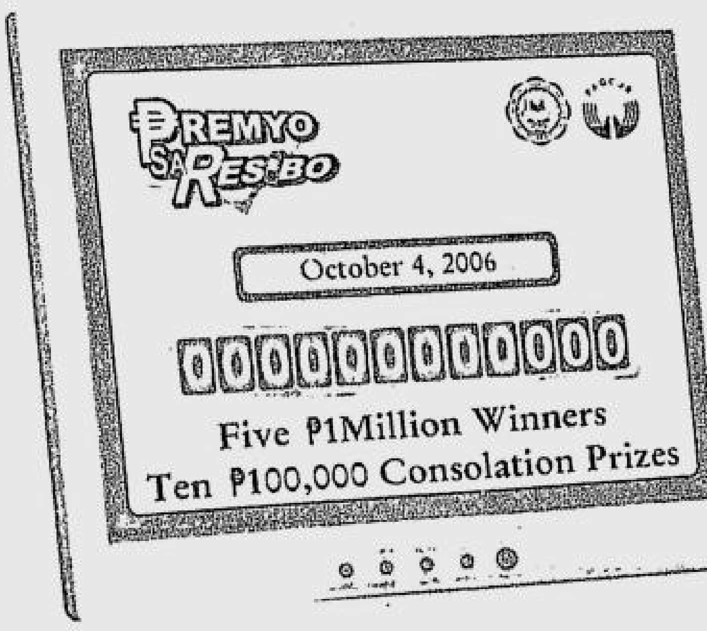
(Sgd.) CECILIA C. BORROMEO
Chairman
HEAD OFFICE COMMITTEE ON ASSET DISPOSAL

(PDI—Sept 30, 2006)

All receipts from Aug 1 - Oct 3, 2006 qualify for the Oct 4 draw

Premyo sa Resibo Draw moved to
October 4, 2006!

WATCH For the **live draw** on **ABC 5 at 1pm.**



Text Ur Entries Now! Avoid the **"last minute" text rush** and possible delay in receiving your raffle entry numbers.

Secretary of Finance Gary B. Teves recently announced that the October 1 Draw for Premyo Sa Resibo has been moved to October 4, 2006. This move will allow texters, who may have been inconvenienced by Typhoon *Milenyo*, three more days to text in their Official Receipts.

4 Days to go before the October 4 Draw:

To join, just text your receipts details following this format:

**PSR<space>TIN of establishment<asterisk>
Receipt Number<asterisk>Amount**

Available to all Smart, Globe and Sun subscribers.

P 1.50 per raffle entry. For inquiries,
call 338-9777 or visit www.premyosaresibo.com.ph

Watch "Araw-araw, Premyo sa Resibo" game show on ABC 5 at 11pm starting October 5, 2006

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OR
For convenience
9778*
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(minimum P350 Receipt Amount)
*Smart and Globe only.

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3. Finally, mag-reply lang ng BKARD sa matatanggap mong confirmation message para ma-download ang iyong electronic Globe Bida Kard. Save it on your cellphone. Maaaring mag-download ng Globe Bida Kard for FREE five (5) times within the same month. Succeeding downloads within the same month will be charged ₱1.00 per transaction.

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NATIONAL HOSPICE WEEK

OCTOBER 1-7, 2006 NATIONWIDE ACTIVITIES

MESSAGES

MALACAÑAN PALACE

Warmest congratulations to the **National Hospice and Palliative Care Council of the Philippines (Hospice Philippines)** as you celebrate *National Hospice Week* and the *3rd Anniversary* of the unification of a number of hospice institutions in the Philippines.

Caring for the sick is second nature to Filipinos. This is the reason why hospice as a way of caring for persons afflicted with life-threatening illnesses, like cancer, found acceptance to many individuals when it was introduced in the Philippines by Dr. Josefina Magno some 12 years ago.

The formation of Hospice Philippines as the umbrella organization of local hospice institutions is a milestone in the advancement of hospice and palliative care in the country. Indeed, your compassion and dedication in serving the healthcare need of terminally-ill patients and their families have gone a long way in helping these people lead fuller and more meaningful lives. And for that, you deserve our commendation.

The government is glad to have you as a partner in looking after the welfare of the sick in our society and encourages you to continue pursuing your noble mission.

More power and *Mabuhay kayong lahat!*

Gloria Arroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President of the Philippines

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

I convey my warmest felicitations to the officers and members of the **National Hospice & Palliative Care Council of the Philippines, Inc. (Hospice Philippines)** on the observance of the National Hospice & Palliative Care Week.

With the rising incidence of cancer among the populace, the emergence of an association whose main purpose is to unite and establish hospice institutions throughout the Philippines is a welcome development in the care of terminally ill cancer patients. These hospice institutions are mainly geared to serve the interests of indigent patients.

Through this event, various health professionals can contribute and infuse a greater sense of mission to your association as you embark on providing a better and improved hospice care system to keep pace with the challenges of the future.

Congratulations and mabuhay kayong lahat!

FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III, M.D.,M.Sc.
Secretary of Health

HOSPICE PHILIPPINES

As we observe the **National Hospice and Palliative Care Week** (October 1-7, 2006). I would like to extend my congratulations to all my co-workers in hospice for a job well done in the service of our indigent patients and my thanks for the wonderful support they have extended to the National Hospice & Palliative Care Council of the Philippines (HOSPICE PHILIPPINES) in the last three years of its existence.

The theme of our celebration "Hospice and Patients: Partners for Life" aptly describes the care that we give to our patients – ensuring a quality of life – as we walk them and hold their hands on their journey home. Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta said that "there are many in the world who are dying for a piece of bread, but there are many more dying for a little love" We, in HOSPICE PHILIPPINES, ensure that death is met with great love.

We also celebrate the third (3rd) anniversary of the formation of HOSPICE PHILIPPINES as an umbrella organization of several hospice institutions and individuals engaged in hospice services. This is a milestone in the dispensation of hospice services in the Philippines. HOSPICE PHILIPPINES is now the one voice that echoes the heart of hospice services.

We would like to thank Her Excellency, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo for all the support she graciously extended to HOSPICE PHILIPPINES, the Department of Health for allowing HOSPICE PHILIPPINES as one of the conduits for the dispensation of morphine to indigent patients and the Philippine Cancer Society for giving birth to HOSPICE PHILIPPINES and for the nurturing that it continuously provides to us.

Asuncion B. Kalalo
ASUNCION B. KALALO
President

A VISION FOR HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE CARE

The National Hospice & Palliative Care Council of the Philippines, Inc (Hospice Philippines) is an association of some hospice organizations and individuals engaged in hospices services. It aims to draw to its membership all hospices, volunteers and hospice practitioners in the Philippines. It intends to establish as many community based hospices and train volunteers in hospice care throughout the Philippines. The members of Hospice Philippines principally serve the indigent terminally ill cancer patients and those afflicted with life threatening illnesses where cure in no longer possible. Hospice care takes into account the medical, social and psycho-spiritual needs of the patient and his/her family. Email us at **hospicephil@gmail.com** or **hospice@yahoo.com**

MANILA HOSTS ASIA PACIFIC HOSPICE CONFERENCE 2007

Manila is proud to be chosen as the host of the 7th Asia Pacific Hospice Conference a biennial conference and gathering of the leaders in hospice and palliative care in the Asia Pacific Region. This is an opportunity to share knowledge and experiences with the experts on hospice palliative care. Venue : Philippine Plaza Hotel. Date : September 27-29, 2007. Visit our website at **www.aphc2007.com** or email us at **secretariat@aphc2007.com**

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO JOIN **HOSPICE WEEK ACTIVITIES OCTOBER 2-7**

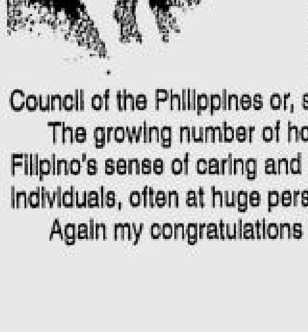
DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY / VENUE	CONDUCTED BY / CONTACT NOS.
Oct. 2-6 Mon-Fri	9 AM - 5 PM	**Hospice Exhibit – Child Life Program** Davao Medical Center	Kythe Foundation, Davao 0921-4260504
	9 AM - 5 PM	**Counseling Service for Patients & Faculty Members** / Chong Hua Hospital, Perpetual Succour Hosp. Cancer Institute and other hospitals (Cebu City)	Cancer Care Network of Cebu (CCNC) c/o Perpetual Succour Hospital Cebu Cancer Institute (032) 2338620
Oct. 2 Mon	10 AM	**Healing Massby** by Rev. Fr. Mario Bije, SVD St. James the Great Parish Cuenca cor Malvar St. Ayala Alabang Village, Muntinlupa City	Ayala Alabang Hospice Care Foundation 842-6686
	12 NN - 5 PM	**CHILD House Tour & Lecture** (1:30 -2:30 PM) CHILD House, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) Compound, E. Rodriguez Sr. Blvd., QC	Center for Health Improvement & Life Development (CHILD) House 414-2421
Oct. 3 Tues	8 AM - 10 AM	**Hospice Tour,** DFCM Office, OPD Building Philippine General Hospital (PGH)	Supportive, Palliative & Hospice Care Care, Dept. of Family & Community Medicine (DFCM), UP-PGH 521-8450 loc. 5302
	9 AM -12 NN	**Hospice Home Visits** Metro Manila and Camanava areas	PALCare Volunteer Group 527-8110
	2 PM - 4 PM	**Public Forum on Hospice and Palliative Care** Eduardo J. Aboitiz Cancer Center	Cancer Care Network of Cebu (CCNC) c/o Perpetual Succour Hosp. Cancer Institute (032) 2338620
Oct. 4 Wed	12 NN - 5 PM	**CHILD House Tour & Lecture** (1:30 -2:30 PM) CHILD House, PCSO Compound	CHILD House 414-2421
	6:30 PM	**Mass and Prayer for the Sick** Our Lady of Pentecost Parish 12 F dela Rosa st. cor. Salvador St. Varsity Hills Loyola Heights QC	St. Joseph Family Hospice and OLPP Hospice Group 929-0665
Oct. 5 Thurs	9 AM -12 NN	**Hospice Home Visits** MetroManila /Camanava areas	PALCare Volunteer Group / 527-8110
	8 AM -11 AM	**Day Care Activity with Volunteers** Eduardo J. Aboitiz Center - Cebu City	Cancer Care Network of Cebu (CCNC) c/o Perpetual Succour Hosp. Cebu Cancer Institute (032) 2338620
Oct. 6 Friday	10 AM - 12 NN	**Mass** by Rev. Fr. Manuel Abogado (Chaplain, San Lazaro Hospital) **Awarding Ceremonies for Patients, Watchers & Volunteers' Empowerment Program** Garden of Healing Pavilion 10, San Lazaro Hospital	Starfish Palliative Care Core Group 732-3125 local 209
	9 AM - 3 PM	**Open House:** Madre de Amor Hospice 9957 Amethyst St. Los Baños Subd., Laguna	Madre de Amor Hospice Foundation 049-536-0644 / 0920-922-4843
	12 NN - 5 PM	**CHILD House Tour & Lecture** (1:30 -2:30 PM) CHILD House, PCSO Compound	CHILD House 414-2421
Oct. 7 Sat.	5 - 6:30 AM	**Hospice Walk*** Luneta (Assembly at the side of Museo Pambata at Katigbak Parkway corner Roxas Blvd.) to Rajah Sulayman Park	Hospice Philippines* **For Hospice Walk:** PLEASE WEAR GREEN T-SHIRT.
	6:30 - 8:30 AM	**Program:** Rajah Sulayman Park (Infront of Baywalk & beside Aristocrat)	
	6 AM - 1 PM	**Fun Run:** CPU to Jaro Plaza **Blood Letting:** Jaro Plaza	Hospice & Family Care Foundation, Inc. c/o Dept. of Family & Community Med. W. Visayas Medical Center Mundurriao, Iloilo (033)321-2841 / (0917) 303-1095
	10 AM - 12 NN 5:30 - 8 PM	**World Hospice Day Program** **Moonwalk: A Walk for a Cause and Talk on Hospice** by Dr. Betty Basco	Hospice & Family Care Foundation, Inc. Cancer Care Network of Cebu (CCNC) c/o Perpetual Succour Hosp. Cebu Cancer Institute (032) 2338620
Oct. 12 Thurs.	9 AM -12 NN	**General Assembly** Phil. Cancer Society, Inc. Office 310 San Rafael St. San Miguel, Manila	National Hospice & Palliative Care Council of the Philippines, Inc. (Hospice Philippines) 752-4223 to 24

HOSPICE WALK: Theme: "Hospice & Patients: Partners for Life"

Oct. 7	Saturday	**Venue:** Rajah Sulayman Park, Malate, Manila	PLEASE WEAR GREEN T-SHIRT
	5 - 6 AM	**Assembly** at the side of Museo Pambata (Katigbak Parkway corner Roxas Blvd, Luneta)	
	6 - 6:30 AM	**Walk** to Rajah Sulayman Park (Infront of Baywalk & beside Aristocrat, Roxas Blvd.)	
	6:30 – 8 AM	**Short Program** at Rajah Sulayman Park	

Emcee:	Dr. Rhodora D. Ocampo	Vice-President – Internal Affairs
Doxology	Dr. Luzviminda S. Kwong	Over-All Chair, Hospice Walk / Auditor, Hospice Philippines
National Anthem	Gina Cabrera	Madre de Amor Hospice Foundation
Welcome Address	Atty. Asuncion B. Kalalo	President, Hospice Philippines
Dance Presentation	CHILD House	
Inspirational Message	Escolastica B. Segovia	Widow of Hospice Patient / Former Director, Garments & Textile Export Board
Dance Presentation	PALCare Volunteer Group	
Voices for Hospice	Asia Pacific Hospice Network	Hospice Philippines & Sponsors
Solidarity with Hospice	Ribbon Pinning	
Introduction of Guest of Honor	Atty. Asuncion B. Kalalo	President, Hospice Philippines
Speech	Honorable Mayor Lito Atienza	City of Manila
Closing Remarks	Dr. Alberto B. Roxas	Trustee, Philippine Cancer Society Dean, U.P. College of Medicine
Finale Song: Heal the World	Dr. Luzviminda S. Kwong	Over-All Chair, Hospice Walk / Auditor, Hospice Philippines

PHILIPPINE CANCER SOCIETY



It is with great gladness that I congratulate Hospice Philippines on its second celebration of the "National Hospice and Palliative Care Week." In the short span of time that Hospice Philippines has existed, it has achieved so much in bringing national attention in the plight of the poor and terminally ill.

When the Philippine Cancer Society started one of the first home care programs for the indigent and dying in 1991, it also envisioned that more groups sharing the same mission would be established throughout the country. That in a little over a decade, these groups have come together to form the National Hospice and Palliative Care Council of the Philippines or, simply Hospice Philippines, bring joy to us.

The growing number of hospices and support groups in the Philippines is a testament to the Filipino's sense of caring and concern for the less fortunate, and to the determination of not a few individuals, often at huge personal sacrifices.

Again my congratulations to Hospice Philippines.

ROBERTO M. PATERNO, PHD
Chairman

This project is supported by the INQUIRER **Philippine Daily Inquirer**

'Milenyo' wreaks havoc on telcos

By Riza T. Olchondra

TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANIES struggled to provide mobile and fixed line services although hampered by weak power supply and damaged antennas in some 1,190 cellular sites caused by the strong winds of typhoon "Milenyo."

To keep services going, telcos deployed generators to cell sites and repaired fixed line facilities damaged by the typhoon.

National Telecommunications Commission chair Ronald Solis told media yesterday that most cell sites in areas without electric power were running on generators. Telcos themselves said power resumption in service areas was crucial in order for them to fully restore services within the next 24 to 48 hours.

Sources said the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT), the country's largest telco, lacked power and had sustained damage in 388 cell sites delivering mobile services for Smart Communications Inc. and Pilipino Telephone Corp. (for Talk N' Text).

Globe Telecom Inc., the country's second largest telco, sustained damage in about 400 sites, while Digital Telecommunications Philippines Inc. (Digitel) and mobile arm Sun Cellular sustained damage in 402 sites. Many fixed line facilities for PLDT and Bayan Telecommunications Inc. (BayanTel) were also affected, mostly by the Luzon-wide power outage starting Thursday, when Milenyo hit land.

By yesterday afternoon, PLDT spokesman Mon Isberto said major repairs had been made and power was the one thing needed to speed up restoration. He said subscribers may call 888 (Smart) and 171 (PLDT) to report difficulties or to ask for updates.

Globe had restored 90 percent of services in Central and Northern Luzon as of 11 a.m. yesterday, 75 percent in Bicol and Southern Luzon despite the total lack of power, and 60 percent in Metro Manila. They also had problems with misaligned antennas as well as power outages. Spokesman Jones Campos advised subscribers to report lost signal and other concerns to 211 (Globe handy phone) and 730-1000 (Globe landline) to aid their engineers in restoring services.

Digitel/Sun had 70 percent of its system repairs done yesterday evening. Digitel vice president Bill Pamintuan said 102 cell sites had been repaired but require stable electric power to be fully operational, while 300 were still being fixed. Subscribers can ask for updates or relay reports to 200 (Sun) and 1710 (Digitel fixed line).

BayanTel, which also provides network connections to other telcos, especially those servicing the countryside, said damaged infrastructure and poles affected telephone and DSL (wireline broadband Internet) services to about 40 percent of BayanTel subscribers in Quezon, Malabon, Navotas and Kalookan, as well as Naga and Legaspi. Spokesman John Rojo said subscribers could call 412-1212 (fixed line problems), 411-2000 (DSL problems) and 449-2200 (corporate data problems) for updates.

Telcos said facilities just needed a power boost and if this could be met by yesterday evening, services would be fully restored today.

RP Everest te Cho-Oyu, wo

By Alcuin Papa

MEMBERS OF THE FIRST PHILIPPINE Mt. Everest Expedition (FPMEE) team are now attempting to scale Mt. Cho-Oyu, the world's sixth highest mountain, in preparation for the group's two-pronged assault on Mt. Everest next year.

Two female members of the team, Karina Dayondon and Noelle Wenceslao, are leading the way for the Filipino climbers and have reached Camp 2 (around 24,000 feet) while Regie Pablo and JB Anonuevo are on Camp 1 (around 23,000 feet).

Dr. Ted Esguerra, the doctor of the expedition, said he and Choi Aquino are in the advance base camp (around 18,000 feet above sea level) to serve as a support team. "So far, we are all adjusted and acclimatized to the mountain and the weather and we are doing fine." He said they expect to reach Cho-Oyu's summit between Oct. 6 and 8.

Leo Oracion and Erwin Emata, the first and second Filipinos, respectively, to set foot on the peak of Mt. Everest, the world's tallest mountain, are both members of the FPMEE. They reached the summit of Mt. Everest on May 17 and 18 this year.

In a phone call to the INQUIRER from the advance base camp, Dr. Ted Esguerra said bad weather and heavy snow have plagued expeditions on Cho-Oyu from around the world.

"The snow storms are coming in really fast and most of the time, we are in waist deep snow," said Esguerra, his breath short because of the

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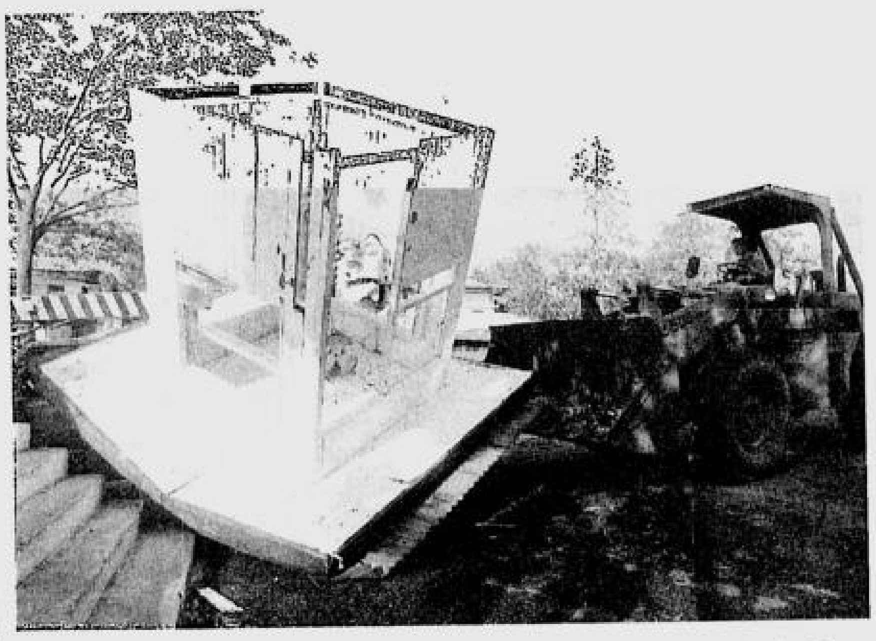
No power, no water, no ref, no TV, no computer games...

A VIEW of the Palace grounds seen through a broken window pane in the Kalayaan Hall museum gallery in Malacañang. LYN RILLON



A BULLDOZER pushes a security outpost blown over by the strong winds of Typhoon Milenyo in the Malacañang grounds. LYN RILLON

By Inquirer Research

MORE THAN UPROOTING TREES AND RIPPING down billboards, typhoon Milenyo also frayed nerves in many homes around Metro Manila.

It also showed how some Filipinos coped with one of the fiercest typhoons to hit the capital in years.

"We're all irritable," Marlito Sator, 21, said as his neighborhood in San Andres Bukid, Manila, groaned under a power outage that started 11 a.m. on Thursday.

"Aside from not having enough sleep, my six siblings also went to work without taking a bath because our water supply is dependent on electricity," Sator said in Filipino. "They just applied cologne on themselves."

Jackie Reyes, a homemaker who lives in a condominium in Tondo, Manila, complained that people like her who live in high-rise buildings had to deal not only with the absence of electricity but with the lack of clean water.

"Without electricity, the pump won't be able to bring water to every unit," she said.

Luckily for her family of three, Reyes was able to fill a whole drum with water before power went out.

To conserve water, family members cut the number of their daily baths from two to one.

Food in ref

Another problem for Reyes was the food kept in her refrigerator.

"I had just finished defrosting [our refrigerator]. I just asked my neighbor if I could place some food in theirs," she said.

With her rice cooker unusable, Reyes has started serving bread instead of rice during family meals.

Minda Abad, of San Pedro, Laguna, prepared dinner early so they could eat at 6 p.m.

"It wasn't yet dark around that time so one candle would do," she explained.

Early to bed

And to lessen the use of candles, her family headed off to bed an hour after dinner.

Abad stocked up on foods that do not require refrigeration, like canned goods, eggs, noodles and dried fish.

For 30-year-old Verna Dalisay, mom to two-month old Romina, the top priority was to satisfy her baby's needs. Since most of her baby's things were electricity-operated, like the baby bottle steamer, the electrical blackout created a problem.

"We had to go look for a manual one," said Verna. "We also had to heat water every now and then to keep the bottles warm, since the baby's food warmer is also electric."

Low bat

Making Romina comfortable through the night was also a problem. "We had to fan her," she said.

Communicating via mobile phones was also a problem.

Reyes and her 15-year-old daughter were among the unfortunate ones whose mobile phones had been rendered useless by uncharged batteries. So what did they do?

"We just passed around my husband's [cell phone] battery," she said.

Aside from disrupting lives in Metro Manila households, the power blackout also affected small businesses and students, as well.

Undelivered uniforms

Julie, 63, runs a small sewing business in her Las Piñas home and the power outage brought her high speed sewing machines—and her business—to a halt.

"My deliveries are delayed," she said, referring to a batch of undelivered office uniforms still with her. "Now, I'm just doing what can be done using my ordinary sewing machine." *Cyril Bonabente, Mel Lawrence de Guzman, Chona Galang and Kate Pedroso*

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eam poised to conquer rld's 6th highest peak

altitude.

said around six international expeditions have already turned back be- of the bad weather, the last being anese expedition.

guerra said two foreign climbers trapped in heavy snow storms ting Mt. Cho-Oyu and had to be ed and treated.

said he joined a four-hour rescue on to save Spanish climber Rafael n. "He (Mician) was disoriented his electrolyte balance was critical. also suffering from pulmonary a. But he is okay now," Esguerra

lmonary edema is a deadly moun- sickness which afflicts climbers fluid starts to fill the lungs be- of the cold mountain weather. fflicted climber dies when he liter- drowns because of the fluid in his

guerra said Camilo Lopez, an inde- ent Columbian climber, had also treated due to bronchitis and irri- ty of the gastrointestinal system. rra also reported that Lopez is doing fine.

far, Esguerra said he has treated imbers from all over the world of r respiratory infections and acute tain sickness (AMS).

a related development, Esguerra a manager of a trekking agency resident of the Makalu region in Himalayas has requested him to uct a medical mission in the re-

guerra said he was planning to go after getting the go-signal from the Philippine government and the UN's White Helmet initiative, which extends humanitarian aid internationally.

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NOTICE TO ALL CREDITORS OF J.S. GAISANO, INC.

Please be informed that the undersigned Rehabilitation Receiver shall conduct a creditors meeting to discuss the proposed Rehabilitation Plan of J.S. Gaisano, Inc., with principal address at #76 Damaso Suazo St. corner Sta. Ana Avenue, Davao City, with a view of clarifying or resolving any matter connected therewith on October 5, 2006, 9:00 in the morning at the Apo View Hotel Boardroom, J. Camus St., Davao City.

Your presence will be highly appreciated.

(Sgd.) **Gerardo B. Anonas**
Rehabilitation Receiver
Contact No. (02) 632-9649 (Manila)
(082) 224-0808 (Davao)

(PDI - Sept. 30 & Oct. 3, 2006)

LEYTE V ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
PO Box 162 Ormoc City 6541
Tel. Nos. (053)561-4075/(053)561-4111

INVITATION TO BID

The Leyte V Electric Cooperative, Inc. (LEYECO V), Brgy. San Pablo, Ormoc City, Leyte, invites all eligible suppliers to submit bids for the **Supply, Delivery, Installation, Testing, and Commissioning of one unit twenty (20) MVA, 69/13.2 KV power transformer.**

Bid documents shall be issued to interested bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Six Thousand Pesos Only (P6,000.00) starting October 6, 2006.

Pre-bid conference will be held on October 17, 2006 at 2 o'clock in the afternoon at LEYECO V Boardroom, Brgy. San Pablo, Ormoc City.

Sealed bids will be received by the Pre-bids and Awards Committee (PBAC), at LEYECO V Main Office in Brgy. San Pablo, Ormoc City, Leyte on November 7, 2006 at 1:30 in the afternoon, at which time and place said proposals will be opened and read in the presence of bidders or their authorized representatives.

LEYECO V reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, to waive any minor defects or informalities therein and to accept any or all offers or proposals as may be considered most responsive and advantageous to the Cooperative. It assumes no obligation whatsoever for any expenses or loss that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **JOVENAL R. ALESNA**
General Manager

(PDI - Sept. 28, 30 & Oct. 2, 2006)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Pier Site, Legazpi City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID FOR THE SECURITY SERVICES FOR NFA REGION V

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY Region V, Legazpi City invites all interested private security agencies to register, apply for eligibility and to bid for the provision of Security Services in the different installations of NFA Region V. The service contract to be bid shall cover the period January 01, 2007 to December 31, 2007 and shall be divided into two (2) lots as follow:

LOT	AREA COVERED	NO. OF GUARDS	BUDGET	SOURCE
1	Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur and Catanduanes	38	P 5,152,872.96	Corporate Operating Budget
2	Albay, Sorsogon and Masbate	47	P 6,372,352.92	

Registration forms / documents will be available for issuance at RBAC Secretariat NFA Legazpi City upon payment of P1,000.00 which is non-refundable.

Only duly registered Security Service Contractor with the RBAC shall be issued eligibility/bid documents and participate in the Pre-Bidding conference and the Bidding Proper upon payment of a nonrefundable bidding fee of P3,000.00 per lot.

The schedule of bidding activities to be held at the NFA Regional Office, Legazpi City are as follows:

ACTIVITIES	DATE	TIME
Issuance of application forms for registration	Sept. 25-Oct. 06, 2006	8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Deadline for submission of application for registration with required documents	Oct. 17, 2006	8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Issuance of Certificate of Registration	Oct. 18-23, 2006	8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Issuance of Application Form/Eligibility Requirements and other Bid Documents	Oct. 23-27, 2006	8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Pre-bidding Conference	Nov. 06, 2006	10:00 a.m.
Submission of Eligibility Requirements	Nov. 20, 2006	9:30 a.m.
Opening of Sealed Bids	Nov. 20, 2006	10:00 a.m.

A Special Power of Attorney is required before the issuance of the documents for authorized representative on behalf of the bidder.

The entire bidding process shall be governed by RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

The prospective bidder must submit a single largest contract, the value of which adjusted to current price using the wholesale price index, and completed within the preceding two (2) years and similar to the contract to be bid must be at least fifty percent (50%) of the approved budget for the contract to be bid.

Other inquiries may be addressed to the RBAC Secretariat, NFA Region V Legazpi City with telephone numbers (052) 480-7015 / 480-7933 / 820-0018

NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OF ALL BIDS THEREOF, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITIES OR DEFECTS FOUND THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS OR AWARD TO ANY CONTRACTOR WHOSE BID IS CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE NFA OR TO THE GOVERNMENT.

(Sgd.) **JOSE B. GUEVARA**
RBAC Chairman

(PDI - September 23 & 30, 2006)

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OPINION

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Damage control

EDITORIAL

MANILA SUFFERED "ONE OF THE WORST DEVastations" it had ever experienced last Thursday, Mayor Lito Atienza said. And the pictures splashed on newspaper pages as well as television screens tend to confirm his observation. But it now appears that the deaths and destruction wrought by Typhoon "Milenyo," which swept over Samar, Bicol, Southern Tagalog and Metro Manila Thursday, won't qualify it among the worst natural disasters to hit the country. For even as newspapers didn't fail to note that it was the strongest typhoon to hit Metro Manila in 11 years, the metropolis and the country as a whole seem to have survived it largely intact, if badly shaken.

The Office of Civil Defense counted a total of 30 persons killed and 20 missing as of yesterday afternoon. Most of them drowned in flood waters and landslides caused by the typhoon, while some were crushed by falling trees and advertising billboards. A total of 61,000 were said to have been affected by the typhoon, but there are no estimates yet about the total losses to crops, infrastructure and property.

Luckily, such casualty figures don't even come close to some of the worst effects of natural calamities the nation has experienced even in the recent past. In 1991, more than 5,000 people were killed in a flash flood that struck Ormoc City. Less than two years ago, 1,800 people died in a series of typhoons, including 480 who were buried in mudslides in several towns of Quezon and Aurora.

Low as the number of dead and wounded this time around, it could have been lower if some people had only exercised a little more care and a little more prudence. What, for instance, were those people doing out there amid a raging typhoon when their van or their taxi was crushed by falling billboards or hit by flying objects? Could they not have waited for the typhoon to blow over before going about their business? And what about those vans that were toppled by strong winds, were they really making urgent deliveries?

If the Metro Manila Development Authority can prohibit the use of some vehicles once weekly to make traffic move a little better, the government can surely find a way to keep all of them off the streets at the height of a typhoon to save lives. But curiously, the MMDA suspended the color-coding scheme last Thursday, and Makati City followed suit, in a departure from its practice of letting everyone know it is an independent republic by ignoring the MMDA's regulations. It was as if these agencies were inviting people to go out of the relative safety of their homes and put themselves in harm's way.

Thursday's typhoon should also settle the debate over what to do with those billboards dotting the major thoroughfares of the metropolis. If there was ever any doubt about the danger they pose to human life and property, Milenyo erased that by blowing down several billboards, which pinned at least a couple of people to death.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has been reported to have ordered the MMDA and the Department of Public Works and Highways to remove those billboards quickly, but some officials are said to have pointed out that there's a law protecting the outdoor advertising industry. If indeed there is such a law, then Congress ought to amend it fast. Sen Miriam Defensor-Santiago has filed a bill seeking to banish the blight from busy streets, but its passage was stalled as the DPWH and the billboard industry tried to hammer out an "acceptable" version of the bill. Now the deaths and the damage caused by falling billboards should serve to underscore the fact that the safest thing to do is to put them far from the centers of population and therefore out of city limits. There cannot be any compromise here unless Congress and the administration believe that our people's safety and well-being are negotiable.

In the wake of the typhoon there are many things to attend to, each one competing for the attention of our leaders. Those who have been displaced need to be housed and fed. Those who lost their homes need help to rebuild. Power, water and telephone services have to be restored as quickly as possible. Streets have to be cleared and swept of debris. But once these urgent needs are attended to, our leaders should turn their attention to enacting laws and adopting measures that will mitigate the effects of typhoons and other natural disasters where possible. They can begin by outlawing billboards in the cities and finding ways to keep people inside whenever a typhoon strikes.

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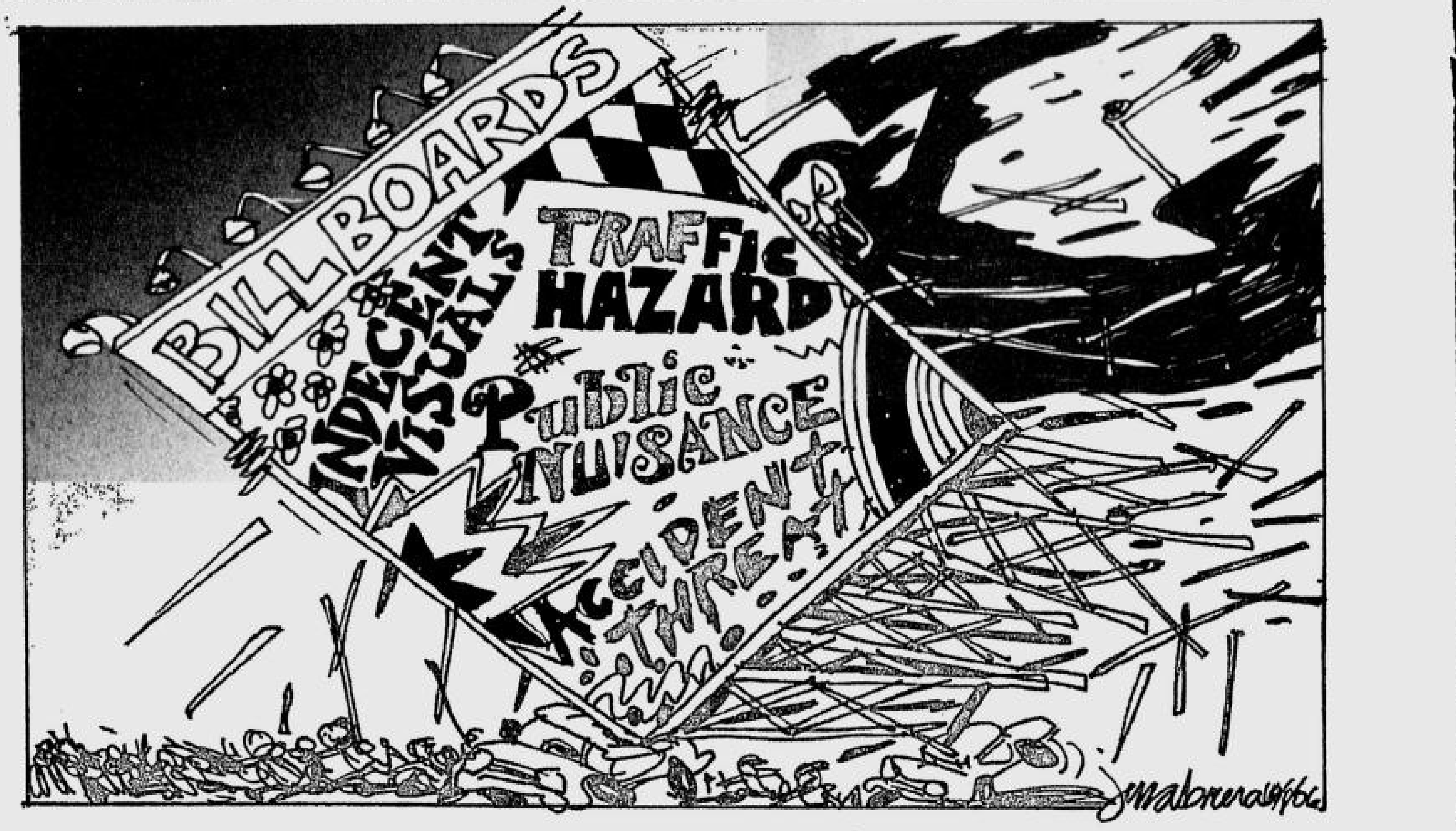


Motions for reconsideration

SEPARATE OPINION

Isàgani A. Cruz

THE SUPREME COURT DEALT THE ARROYO administration a triple whammy when it declared unconstitutional parts of EO 464 in Senate v. Ermita, G.R. No. 165777, April 30, 2006; outlawed the Calibrated Preemptive Response and other acts limiting freedom of expression in Bayan v. Ermita, G.R. No. 1696, April 23, 2006; and voided PP 1017 in David v. Arroyo, G.R. No. 171356, May 3, 2006, for authorizing certain arbitrary acts of the police and the military, including warrantless searches and seizures.

The first two cases were decided unanimously except for one justice who was on leave and the third by 11 members, with three dissenting and one on leave. Yet, despite the overwhelming majorities, the Solicitor General still filed motions for reconsideration of two of the decisions, probably out of official *amor propio* only and secretly, I imagine, without much hope they would be granted.

Nevertheless, the MRs were serving a utilitarian and clever purpose for the nonce. Pending resolution of the motions, President Macapagal-Arroyo and her executive subordinates could claim that the decisions against them were not yet binding and they could continue with their protested acts without contempt of the Supreme Court, which could blame only itself for its own inaction.

Motions for reconsideration are filed usually by rote, or out of an earnest belief that the judicial dictum is erroneous and should be corrected, or as a legal requirement for an appeal. As a general rule, they are seldom successful except where the original judgment is blatantly inaccurate, capricious, dilatory, or subject to other similar objection.

There is also the announced *ponente's* pride of authorship, assuming the decision was actually written by him, who will naturally be reluctant to consign his deathless prose to the trash can.

One case in point is Secretary of Justice v. Lantion, 322 SCRA 160, where the Supreme Court originally sustained 8 to 6 the demand of Mark Jimenez to be informed of the extradition charges filed against him by the US government. On the motion for reconsideration, the original decision was reversed, also by an 8-6 vote, on the ground that such charges were still being evaluated and no complaint for his extradition had as yet been filed in court.

The unpopularity of the original ruling may have contributed to its reconsideration, which was readily accepted by the people as the correct decision. But to repeat just for emphasis, motions for reconsideration are usually denied for the reasons above given and also as a practical policy for the speedy administration of justice. The usual coded action of the Court is "df - nsa"—denied and final, no substantial argument.

One other significant fact about the Lantion Case is the wide time gap between the original decision and its subsequent reconsideration. Originally decided on Jan. 18, 2000, it was reversed on Oct. 17, 2000, or all of eight months later. It took that long for two members of the erstwhile majority to rethink their former stand and switch to the side of the dissenters who eventually prevailed.

Resolution of the motions for reconsideration of the Senate and David decisions did not pose similar difficulty or delay, however. The Supreme Court justices were not split but were in fact practically unanimous in holding against President Arroyo on her unconstitutional acts. To reconsider and replace the rulings they had rendered five months ago, they would not need only two votes as in the Lantion Case but as many as eight votes originally cast against the President but now suspiciously supporting her.

The Senate has been frustrated in investigating the disposition of the P728-million fertilizer fund, the questionable funding of the Venable retainer contract, the easily soluble mystery of the Garci tapes and other scandalous conundrums of the Arroyo administration. But it was extremely doubtful that the decisions of the Supreme Court against President Arroyo and her subordinates would be reconsidered and disowned by the unrepentant justices.

It was not even likely, and this is not meant to be flippant, that the resolute lady justices—of whom there are now five on the Court—would exercise the female privilege of thinking this way today and changing their mind tomorrow. Some members of the high tribunal on the distaff side have been known to be more dominant than their male colleagues, as exemplified by the late Justice Cecilia Muñoz Palma.

It now appears that the motions for reconsideration had long been denied with finality, the first as early as last June 20 and the second a month later, on July 14. I myself learned about this only after verification with Public Information Officer Ismael G. Khan Jr., who extended to me his full and cordial cooperation. Until then, many people felt that the administration could continue claiming that it was yet bound by the Supreme Court rulings because they had not yet become final and executory.

Before it is abolished, the Senate may now resume its investigations of the Cabinet members who were able to evade its scrutiny by feebly invoking the executive privilege of President Arroyo. Except for Jocelyn Bolante, who simply fled but is now in an American jail.

Moment of truth

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

CALL IT A DEFINING MOMENT. CALL IT A moment of truth. But that's what Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez faces. The Supreme Court set a Sept. 30 deadline (today) for her to report her findings on the possible liability of government officials and private parties involved in the Comelec election counting machines contract which the Supreme Court voided and nullified. By this time, she will have to decide whether to adopt or repudiate the recommendations made to her by her own Field Investigation Office (FIO) on the matter.

A copy of those recommendations has been provided to me by former Sen. Jovito Salonga, which I share with the readers, so that it can be compared with whatever Gutierrez has submitted to the Supreme Court. We can then judge whether the ombudsman is worthy of her salt, or merely a sheep (or a *tuta*) in wolf's clothing.

The recommendations, by the way, were submitted to Gutierrez over three weeks ago—on Sept. 4—so Gutierrez must have been agonizing since then. One can understand her agony. Maria Olivia Elena A. Roxas, graft investigator and prosecutor II at the FIO, recommends that all the sitting Comelec commissioners at the time the voided contract was signed, plus eight other Comelec officers, plus an official of the Department of Science and Technology and the six incorporators and stockholders of the private company involved (MPC or MPEI), be held criminally, administratively and civilly liable in connection with the voided contract.

These are contained in her Comment on the summations of private respondents and of counsel for certain accused Comelec officials after a clarificatory hearing of the investigation panel. Roxas methodically dissects and pulverizes the arguments of the respondents with respect to five issues: regularity of the bidding process, eligibility of the Mega Pacific Consortium, accuracy of the automated counting machines (ACMs), adequacy of the software, and the MPC contract being advantageous to the government.

Roxas points out that the summations were essentially a rehash of arguments already previously rejected by the Supreme Court (decision) and/or the investigating panel (resolution), and further notes that the records show the following:

1. The bidding process was tainted with irregularity (e.g., the Bids and Awards Committee recommended the award of the contract to MPEI, the Comelec en banc awarded it to MPC, and the contract was signed with MPEI).

2. The MPC or even the MPEI never complied with the requirements of the Request for Proposal (RFP), hence were ineligible (MPC is not a consortium, MPEI does not have the required three-year track record—in fact, it has no track record to speak of).

3. The facts relating to the accuracy of the ACMs proved that at the time they were tested by the DOTC prior to the award, the same failed in several material aspects as required by the RFP.

4. When tested, the DOTC likewise found the software inadequate to satisfy the requirements of the RFP prior to the award of the contract (any subsequent delivery does not cure the defects at the time of the award).

5. The contract entered into by MPC or MPEI was definitely grossly disadvantageous to the government (e.g., an overpayment of P62 million from the use of the wrong foreign exchange rate; another P194 million in taxes and duties was built into the total price even if the Comelec is exempt from such duties and taxes; a "catch-all" undertaking by the "consortium" that it would return any "disallowances" by the Commission on Audit does not excuse the Comelec from scrutinizing the contract and already removing the amounts corresponding to the duties and taxes).

Roxas further points out that "notably, crucial and glaring violations were committed by Comelec officials through all the phases of the bidding process. From the determination of the eligibility to the evaluation of the proposals until the final deliberation of the award. It cannot be helped but noticed that they acted in unison pointing to a well-defined conspiracy to favor the MPC or MPEI."

She adds: "The presence of conspiracy among the Comelec officials was likewise apparent in that not one single official or officer questioned the illegal and irregular actions attendant to the bidding process. They obviously turned a blind eye on the questionable transaction probably because of Chairman Abalos' close links with MPEI key officers. Records established Chairman Abalos' close and personal relationship with spouses Tansipek—two principal incorporators of MPEI. He is in fact a wedding godfather to a child of the Tansipeks. The fact of these close and personal links between Abalos and the Tansipeks cannot but persuade and influence subordinate officials of the Comelec to adopt the same attitude as the resulting facts have shown."

Thus the Comment concludes: "The issues in the instant case may appear to be complicated, in reality, however, the issues to be addressed are simple enough. Was there an illegal transaction? Should herein respondents be held responsible therefore? To these questions, given the established facts and the evidence presented by the government, there can only be one answer and that is in the affirmative. Clearly all the respondents should be held criminally, administratively and civilly liable."

Is that what Gutierrez has reported to the Supreme Court? Or did she whitewash the case? By the time you read this, dear reader, you will know for sure—unless she has managed to get another reprieve from the Supreme Court.

Would Senate have passed a new initiative law?

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

AS "MILENYO" FURIOUSLY RAGED LAST THURSday noon, many people were terribly frightened as they faced howling winds, shattering glass, loosened GI sheets flying all around, crashing ceilings, falling trees, etc. But at about 3 p.m., after the storm passed and amid all the debris that rendered streets impassable, a great calm settled on the metropolis. That gave relatives and friends time to call up one another to exchange news about the damage. The unanimous verdict was that this was the strongest typhoon in recent memory.

But the calm was only momentary. Soon after came the realization that there were other problems. Not only was the power off, with no indication of when it would be returned, but water was also gone. Telephones also went dead. The affluent had to contend with sleeping without air-conditioning or even an electric fan, while the poor worried about how to rebuild their shanties.

* * *

Yesterday morning, I sauntered out early and saw people everywhere cleaning up their yards. The plus side is the resilience of our disaster-inured people, but the downside is that we take disasters too casually, so that storms of such magnitude no longer receive proper attention. Few people realized how strong that typhoon would be and much of the ignorance can be blamed on government agencies.

At the 6:30 Mass I attended that morning, the priest spoke of the calm after the storm and the "new vision" one comes upon as he surveys the world littered with debris. He then likened it to the storms of life where everything may seem turbulent and confusing, but after they pass, one gets this "new vision" and problems are seen in a new light. If one hangs on to God and let Him take charge during the turbulence, said the priest, one becomes calm and serene.

* * *

The Department of Education did right by canceling classes the night before, instead of in the morning of the storm, as in past years. But the biggest lesson this storm drew was that those hideous giant billboards all over the metropolis and along the highways have to go now. Two people lost their lives when billboards fell on their vehicles and many more were injured. The MMDA has to remove all those outsized billboards and enforce regulations about size and placement. The MMDA's resolve began to weaken in the wake of a furious lobby by the advertising sector, which clearly abused the use of billboards. Let's not wait for another disaster before resolving this problem.

* * *

Sen. Joker Arroyo, who led the anti-Charter change lawyers at the Supreme Court hearing on people's initiative last Tuesday, blamed its proponents for snubbing the Senate committee hearing on three proposed bills seeking to pass an enabling law that would repair the alleged insufficiency of RA 6735. He was quoted as saying they would have done better lobbying Congress to pass such law, instead of putting their faith in an invalid law and asking the Court to validate it. But I wonder if the Senate would truly have passed such a law, given the senators' closed minds on Charter change. Recent history has shown that the Senate has become too engrossed in its fight for survival that it would block any effort to push Charter change forward. Which is really a pity, because deep down inside, many senators realize that the parliamentary/unicameral system is the best for our country at this stage of its development.

By the way, some pro-initiative lawyers noted that during the hearing there were 13 anti-initiative lawyers against only six pro-initiative lawyers. The pro lawyers think it could be a portent of bad luck for their protagonists.

* * *

Fr. Pierre Tritz, founder of Erda Foundation which this year supports close to 30,000 students from very poor families in school, wrote to say he agreed fully with my earlier column praising the positive reputation of our nurses abroad. He recalled first meeting Filipino nurses when he served as chaplain on night duty in 1968 at the Hospital of St. Joseph in Quiapo, Manila. Since 1979, said Father Tritz, when he joined the Hospital of the Infant Jesus in Laon-Laan St., Manila as its night chaplain, his room has always been in front of the ICU. "Again I see the nurses on duty especially now, as not only all the rooms but even the corridors are occupied by patients, mostly children with dengue. I really admire the patience, kindness and ability of our nurses. No wonder they are in demand in 101 countries around the world."

To which I retort that precisely to protect our nurses' solid reputation, it was good that President Macapagal-Arroyo has ordered a retake of the recent nursing exams, which were marred by cheating. She should also order the speedy conclusion of the investigation so that the culpable officials can be prosecuted fast. Otherwise this will be another whitewash.

* * *

Father Tritz celebrated his 92nd birthday last Sept. 19. Among the Tritzes, he is the public figure, but he had a Jesuit brother named Fr. Jean Tritz, who worked among the lepers of Madagascar in Africa and died there. Since tomorrow is the Feast of St. Therese of the Child Jesus, it's fitting to recall that he also had a sister in the Philippines, Catherine Marie, a Carmelite nun who took the name Teresa of Jesus. Soon after her solemn profession of vows in her native France in 1950, Teresa felt the call to the missions and arrived in Manila in 1954 where she served briefly in the Bacolod, Jaro and Manila Carmels.

Since 1960, however, she lived in the Carmel Convent of St. Joseph in Lucena City, where she was fondly known as "Notre Mere" (Our Mother). She took on her various assignments with a lot of sanctity and faith in God and the sisters always looked upon her as their "spiritual guide and mother of our souls." Last July, three weeks before her 91st birthday, the day set for the launch of Lucena Carmel's Jubilee Year, Mother Teresa of Jesus died a peaceful death. Her 92-year-old brother paid her a last visit the week before.

Riding out the storm

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

SINCE CHILDHOOD, I'VE LOVED DRIVING around in a typhoon, watching the wind whipping up trees and people dodging the raindrops, all the while thanking the fates that I'm safe and dry inside a vehicle. When I told a friend about this weird habit of mine, she reminded me that I was tempting the fates, because the car could get hit by flying debris or get stranded in floodwaters.

Actually, I've found myself—and my vehicle—trapped in rising waters a few times. Once, my daughter and I were on our way to a ballet performance when our car stalled in the middle of a street somewhere in Makati, as murky water rose all around us. Somehow, we managed to leave the car and wade through the muck to get to higher ground, from where we called my husband and son to come rescue us. Women's lib can only get you so far.

But even such experiences have not been enough to dampen my enthusiasm for typhoon drives. Whenever radio announcers warn the public to stay home during a storm and avoid leaving the house as much as possible, I laugh to myself because high winds and lashing rains are guaranteed to get me out of the house.

When I heard the news Wednesday evening over the car radio about this weather disturbance, I at first wondered if I had heard it right, that a "typhoon of the millennium" was about to hit us. It turned out that "Milenyo" was just the designated name given by local meteorologists, though given the near-hysteria whipped up by announcers, you'd think we were indeed going to be beset by a once-in-a-thousand-years storm.

* * *

IT turns out that "Milenyo," while not exactly epochal, still made history, being the strongest storm ever to lash Metro Manila in 11 years.

But even this storm was not enough to keep me at home. In fact, I left the house uncharacteristically early, for in my desire to avoid the expected traffic, I left the house two hours before the appointed time. I was bound for the Intercon Hotel for the judging of the national finals of the Bayer .Environmental Envoy Awards, and my son, who works in Makati, hitched a ride.

We got to Makati in less than an hour, and even after I had dropped off my son, I still had time to kill when I got to the hotel. Everyone else trickled in the next hour or so. Surprisingly, all the judges made it, including Environment Undersecretary Manuel Gerochi, although he had to excuse himself during the noon break because the President had called an emergency meeting at Camp Aguinaldo.

It was interesting, even surreal, to be listening to 11 young people "defend" their projects, all of which sought to address an environmental problem, even while the surrounding environment was being battered by a visiting typhoon.

We spent our free time looking out the glass picture windows of the hotel, watching while the tarpaulins on billboards of SM across the street were ripped off their scaffoldings. "All of us should buy Arrow shirts," quipped a young volunteer, beholding the lone surviving "tarp," adding "if the durability of its tarpaulin is any indication!"

* * *

AT ONE point that afternoon, I wondered aloud if I shouldn't invite my son over to the hotel so we could just check in for an overnight stay, wondering if our driver could navigate the flooded streets between Antipolo and Makati.

We were marking the 40th day of prayers for my late sister-in-law Nene that evening, so in-between judging for the Bayer Awards, I was checking by voice call and text messages for updates on the priest, the food, the arrangements and the guests. By about 4 p.m., my husband and his sister had decided to call off the Mass and dinner, since their brother Nonoy and his wife Yoly, who were visiting from Florida, were stranded in Pasay and they deemed it too risky for our relatives to brave "Milenyo" just for our affair. We asked instead for prayers for Nene in our text messages.

Our judging was over before 5 p.m., and my husband called to say he was going with the driver to fetch me and my son, scuttling my plans for an overnight hotel stay. But I did get my wish to go driving around in the midst of a typhoon because my son asked if we could first bring home his girlfriend Tesh before we headed home.

And so it was that I found myself "touring" Makati and Manila in the midst of "Milenyo," even if by that time, we were beholding the after-effects of the typhoon. Even so, it was a thrill to negotiate the streets of Makati, which looked like, in the words of my son "a war zone," with fallen trees, electric wires strewn across pavements, and even flimsy structures reduced to rubble.

* * *

WE got home to a village plunged into darkness, making me instantly regret that I had given up a comfortable stay in a hotel that had electricity.

We filled the house with candles, prayed the Rosary and the novena for Nene with our respective families, and shared a simple repast of *callos* and *puto*, the only food that had survived our elaborate dinner plans because the other dishes, which were supposed to be supplied by relatives, never made it to our house and were probably filling up the bellies of the cooks' families even as we traded stories over candlelight.

As I write this, power still hasn't been restored to our area. On the radio, I heard the Meralco spokesperson begging for some "patience" from customers since "we are all suffering from the same calamity." I wanted to tell her: "Then you should bear with us your customers, too, when we're unable to pay your bills!"

Still, considering the damage that others have had to bear with, and the amenities we still enjoy—running water (albeit we had to do with cold showers), a dry bed, enough food—we should still consider ourselves lucky. And best of all, I still had my typhoon ride.

Censor and sensibility

WORLD VIEW

Jonathan Zittrain

MOST WESTERN JOURNALISTS FIGHT BACK when governments threaten their ability to gather the information they need. Some have gone to jail to protect the identities of anonymous sources and whistle-blowers, or have sued governments that deny them access to crucial documents. Alas, many journalists seem far more willing to fight over their right to gather news than to battle for their right to publish and broadcast the results of their reporting freely. Indeed, Western journalists and news organizations seem to accept as a fact of life censorship within countries that routinely control the media.

Acquiescing to such censorship might have been necessary when printing presses, delivery trucks, news kiosks, or transmission towers were the only way to get printed publications or broadcast programs to news consumers. But Internet publishing offers a new—and potentially lucrative—opportunity for the distribution of uncensored information.

Such freedom is not automatic, because even the Internet's inherent openness can be largely defeated by assiduous government filtering and surveillance. However, in recent years, sustained research into countermeasures against such third-party interference in Internet communications has begun to add a new factor. The bulk of this research has not been conducted in university labs or corporate R&D facilities, but spontaneously by teenagers, who use it to share copyrighted music with one another without paying for it.

Western media outlets have covered this story with great interest, yet apparently without realizing that these peer-to-peer technologies have the potential to de-censor the news for more people in countries like China, where any online content that runs counter to the Chinese Communist Party's current line risks falling victim to the "Great Firewall" of censorship. Peer-to-peer technologies make filtering more difficult, because they put nearly any consumer of information into the process of transmitting it.

For example, without endangering those in China, news organizations could conclude deals with other companies to ensure that uncensored reports are echoed from one free server to the next, thereby defying China to filter the entire Internet if it wishes to eliminate content. Of course, news organizations operate as businesses, and defying powerful governments can be a bad business strategy.

That is why there has been so little rebellion, or even remonstration, among media companies when authoritarian governments threaten journalists, editors and publishers. It also explains why journalists in those countries have so often bent over backwards to apologize for individual transgressions, rather than stand in defiance.

But news organizations could reach many more people if they worked to circumvent Internet filtering instead of passively relying on those inside the firewall to figure out how to reach beyond blocked sites on their own. Doing so might even make good business sense.

Building a creative digital distribution system that eludes government censors would help news organizations establish and enlarge their markets. Indeed, it is not implausible that when a government's repressive policies diminish, or end through regime change, media outlets that were present and government-approved will fare poorly vis-à-vis offshore counterparts that stayed away and conveyed the truth. If news outlets in physically remote open societies meet consumers in countries like China halfway, the benefits for both the Chinese and the bottom line could be enormous.

Along with the enterprising teenagers who built Napster, academics like Lorrie Faith Cranor at Carnegie Mellon mapped out the shape of potential new networks with lofty names like "Publius," through which unpopular views could be circulated outside of easy governmental control. A team of computer scientists at Stanford and elsewhere created a project called "LOCKSS," which retains decentralized mirrored copies of documents, and detects corruption or forgery among them, to preserve the integrity of our written histories forever.

Those who consider themselves members of the global free press should collectively strive to construct similar networks over which news and reporting can run free and be available to anyone with an Internet connection. Building such a network would be far cheaper than constructing even a single new printing plant—and it would be far more effective. We should consider the front pages of every free nation's newspapers as a precious set of documents, to be replicated and shared openly throughout the world, especially in countries where heavy state censorship exists.

Thanks to the Internet, the risks in realizing these new distribution networks are really only business risks—and thus are quantifiable and manageable. They pale in comparison to the risks taken by dissidents in closed societies. Putting those front pages on a filtered website should be only a beginning. It's time to find a way to circulate those front pages everywhere. It makes good political sense; it could make good business sense as well.

Jonathan Zittrain is professor of Internet Governance and Regulation at Oxford University, and a visiting professor of Law at Harvard Law School, where he cofounded the Berkman Center for Internet and Society. Copyright: Jonathan Zittrain, 2006.

Home

YOUNG BLOOD

Bro. Nilo A. Lardizabal, OP

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

A RELATIVE ONCE VISITED ME IN THE SEMINARY IN Sto. Domingo in Quezon City and asked: "Aren't you coming home for the holidays?"

I told him, "I am home."

Though that response came quickly, it did require a little reflection on my part because that fact was both sweet and bitter. The life that I chose as a religious has always been a beautiful one. But that's easier said than done. It isn't a life that is devoid of troubles and quarrels, but looking at it from a wider perspective, the life of prayer, assiduous study, community life and the simple joys and trials that come with it, learned with patience and hardship over a long period of time, makes me happy. I am determined to keep it that way.

Young students often ask me if I ever get envious when I see young couples together, obviously loving each other. I confess that it's true—especially when they show their affection right in front of me, inside a jeepney of all places! But then I recall the decision I made. The choice to be a religious was mine, with God's mercy, and that of my community of brothers. These young couples have something that I do not have—that's a fact. But I also have something they do not have: the gift of a religious vocation. And like all gifts, it is something that I greatly treasure.

As a student of the masteral program in Philosophy at the University of Santo Tomas, I come home late thrice a week because my classes are in the evening. But there are times when I get back while the brothers are praying the Vespers or the Evening Prayer. Hearing the hymns and the psalms being chanted gives me a sense of peace and serenity. Of course, a voice or two may be out of tune here and there, or a falsetto would come out of nowhere, but when I hear them singing I know I am home. These are my brothers, and this is my life.

Once a brother made me furious over something, and the whole day I was seething. Then in the evening before prayers, he smiled at me and embraced me. All my anger was gone in an instant! For how could I not forgive? He was my brother, and I too must love him.

I said to myself: "Lord, this is an injustice on my part. I was mad the whole day, yet you gave us this one instant when I could forgive him."

Things like this are what make the life of a religious special in its own way. There is "space" for misunderstanding of course, but a whole "room" for charity.

Funny but the mania over the ever-popular "Pinoy Big Brother" is something we find hard to understand. After all, we have been doing the same thing for months or years, and we are living not only with 10 strangers but 50 or even more. We do not call them "housemates," we call them brothers. With them I share all my heartaches and joys. I listen to them and they listen to me.

Religious life is a constant living out of the virtues, not for oneself but for others. We are not perfect individuals; we do not live in heaven. But we try our best to live our lives the best way we think it should be lived.

Offices, classrooms and sometimes homes are full of chaos and strife, and they will remain so if there is no desire to be humble, forgiving and loving among those who are there. Our communities of friars are expected to learn these difficult virtues, also. The challenge belongs to us, too.

I wonder why they call it a "Big Brother House" and not "Home." Perhaps it's because they were there just to survive. Perhaps it's because they were mere competitors. But more than survival and competition, the show is supposed to be a journey of discovery of oneself and of others.

Home is where the heart is, as the saying goes. I think that means giving yourself whole and entire to your neighbors, to your housemates, to your brothers. Which is what makes living with others worthwhile.

Another relative asked me, "What does it feel to lose your family when you entered the seminary?"

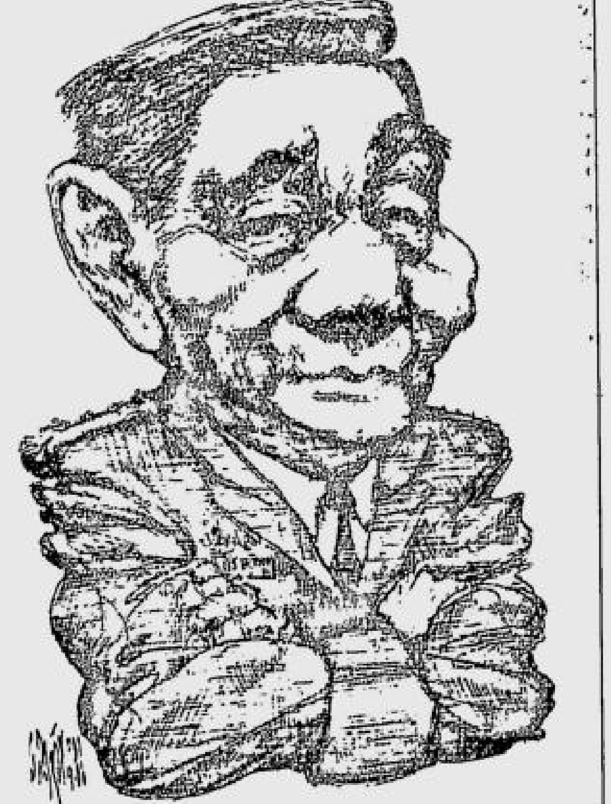
I told him, "Imagine how it feels to gain 50 brothers."

Bro. Nilo A. Lardizabal, OP, 27, is taking his masteral studies at the University of Santo Tomas.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

IN THE NEWS



Gen. Hermogenes Esperon

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Military junta running RP gov't

FILIPINOS HAVE MISSED THE boat. While the Thais were very aware of their coup, Filipinos seem not to know that they have been "couped" for the past several years.

Since the 2004 elections up to the present, President Macapagal-Arroyo has surrendered the Philippines to the generals. How? Simply by moving many, many retired generals and admirals into the civilian side of the government even as they, in turn, maintain close links with their counterparts still in active service. And Filipinos have failed to notice the military junta that has taken over the Philippines.

Ms Arroyo can very easily be identified as a "talking head" who cuts ribbons to open supermarkets or to inaugurate bridges. Such activities only make this country a laughingstock on the international stage. When was the last time US President George W. Bush or British Prime Minister Tony Blair or the President of Afghanistan asked to cut a ribbon at a new supermarket?

The INQUIRER needs to report on the number of retired generals and admirals—and other military officials—holding high government positions. It will be interesting to see a junta in place.

—LARRY WILSON,
061 Kamagong St.,
St. Joseph Subd., Cainta, Rizal

GMA must answer allegations of poll fraud

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO should not say that it is over, that with the second impeachment complaint put to rest, it is time to move on, that we should now join our hands and work together for the good of our country.

No, Ms President! Our economy will not be able to take off unless the truth about the electoral fraud in 2004 is fully revealed.

Yes, there is no reason for the President to rejoice over her "impeachment victory" at the House of Representatives after her dishonorable allies junked the people's clamor for truth. On the contrary, the President has reason to worry because the truth will continue to haunt her. She should expect more "destabilization" moves initiated by people who are committed to the truth. And she should free the soldiers now behind bars for "disobeying duly constituted authorities." I think they committed no crime because even now she cannot be considered among the "duly constituted authorities."

The solution to our country's problem is very simple: just let President Macapagal-Arroyo answer the allegations of electoral fraud.

Is she not alarmed that cheating is on the rise in this country? The most recent case was the leakage of test questions in the nursing board exam. And does she know the comment of most people these days? It is disheartening when they say it is all right to cheat, after all, the President did it.

—FR. PEPOYE CABATINGAN,
Naawan, Misamis Oriental

Does the President enjoy the smell of blood?

MAJ. GEN. JOVITO PALPARAN IN the civil service? As INQUIRER's Sept. 12 editorial pointed out, it is perverse. For us in the government, it is hypocritical.

To be sure, there are many career civil servants more qualified to head the anti-insurgency operations of the National Security Council. But Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo seems inclined to bypass them in favor of a retired general with a questionable background.

This is an affront to government employees, the Civil Service Commission and the Filipino people. Palparan does not deserve this sensitive position, one that oversees comprehensive plans for peace and order. He says he is an "army man" through and through; we know he will apply military logic and discipline—in other words, force—to resolve differences of opinion. The "militarization" of bureaucracy imperils the healthy distinction between consensual decisions and chain-of-command directives.

Appointing former military men to the bureaucracy severely undermines the civilian character of government, but appointing men in disgrace defies reason. We, government employees, cannot see the wisdom of putting a man accused of killing hundreds of people, in charge of protecting millions. It is like assigning a thief to take care of our money.

Instead of subjecting Palparan to the scrutiny of domestic and international investigations, GMA chooses to shield him from them. Accusations of human rights violations are serious. Before Palparan is made to work with decent government employees, he—with or without his dogs—must be haled to court.

But in GMA's depraved world, the criminals are rewarded with lucrative, powerful posts in the bureaucracy, in complete disdain of competency and professionalism.

Others may be doing the "dirty" jobs for GMA, but it takes little to recognize her hand behind the political misdeeds in the country. Lauding Palparan's criminal record is absolving him of possible murder charges even before he is put on trial; giving him a civilian post is encouraging the political killings to go on. GMA must be enjoying the smell of flesh and blood in her hands.

—FERDINAND GAITE,
national president,
Confederation for Unity,
Recognition and Advancement
of Government Employees
(Courage), 9A K-F Street,
Kamuning, Quezon City

LETTERS PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Parents losing children to media

A FEW WEEKS AGO, I ATTENDED a seminar on media literacy at the Lyceum of Aparri which focused on television commercials, among others. It was a particularly interesting seminar because it made me understand the media and their influence on our everyday lives. We were asked to analyze them in their political, social and economic milieu. In this, we were required to be critical about media.

Worrisome was the observation that media are taking from the parents the parenting role of molding and inspiring their children. It was some kind of a revelation. It struck us but we remained open-minded. We were eager to learn the reason behind this disturbing phenomenon. After a thorough self-analysis, we came to these conclusions.

It is obvious that we are seemingly losing control of our children. For instance, most of the views of our children about God, life, morality, sex and the like are molded by the media. Here lies the problem.

What are we parents doing? How do we adjust or strengthen our parenting roles in order not to lose our children to the media? Are we, with fervor and enthusiasm, doing something to teach our children the traditional Filipino values and safeguard them against the "constructed realities" presented by media? Or do we just leave our kids to be brainwashed by the media, remaining passive even as their sense of right and wrong is weakened?

This is a serious problem for us parents. We allow the media to set the standard of morality for our kids, we permit the media to set what is admirable for our children. What is morally right for our children is now based on what the media say.

—REGINALD B. TAMAYO,
member, Sangguniang Bayan,
Aparri, Cagayan

Violence can't create culture of peace

LAST FRIDAY, SEPT. 22, THE UP Association of Political Science Majors (APSM) held a forum titled "Untamed Conflict and Arrested Development: Finding a Way Out of the Vicious Cycle." The forum was meant to shed light on the nexus of conflict and development and to examine proposed solutions from different actors and institutions. The UP APSM is a non-partisan organization. Its slogan is: "Where both ends of the political spectrum meet."

Having AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon and Undersecretary Danilo Encinas talk to students affiliated with the militant sectors is a perfect example of such a meeting. Our Sept. 22 forum can be said to have successfully engaged different actors in a formal and open academic discourse.

We regret that some members of STAND UP LFS went beyond the parameters of academic discourse by throwing eggs at the unarmed AFP delegates in that forum. We would like to clarify that we do not condemn STAND UP and its allied organizations for the causes and goals they pursue. What we condemn are the actions of some of its members who created that incident. Among the issues discussed in the forum were: respect for human dignity and rights, and use of violence in promoting one's cause. By pelting the AFP delegates with eggs, the students precisely violated human dignity and rights and used violence. Such actions are what give activists and UP students a bad name.

Let us bear in mind the counsel of Prof. Miriam Coronel-Ferrer. Even as we differ, our guiding principle should be: paradigm shifts are necessary to achieve peace and regardless of what camp you are in, conflict should be settled through peaceful channels; violence should be a last resort and in the unfortunate occasion that such is employed, camps should submit themselves to established rules of engagement.

Secondly, we also would like to clarify that nobody was asked to leave the forum. USC (University Student Council) chair Paolo Alfonso, was asked (in the same manner that other members of the audience were asked) to vacate a seat reserved for faculty members and invited guests.

Thirdly, the decision to undertake precautionary measures (e.g., inspecting bags) was made by us, as organizers, who thought that it was our responsibility to ensure the safety of students, especially those whom we invited. The violent and disruptive actions of STAND UP members validated the need for the precautionary measures we took.

We demand a public apology from the members of STAND UP, LFS and their allied organizations for throwing eggs and mud at General Esperon and his companions. This incident should never happen again.

How do we create a culture of peace through violence? How can we resolve the hostilities dividing our country when some groups do not know what it means to be civil?

—CEAZAR RYAN C. AQUINO,
member, UP Association
of Political Science Majors,
Diliman, Quezon City

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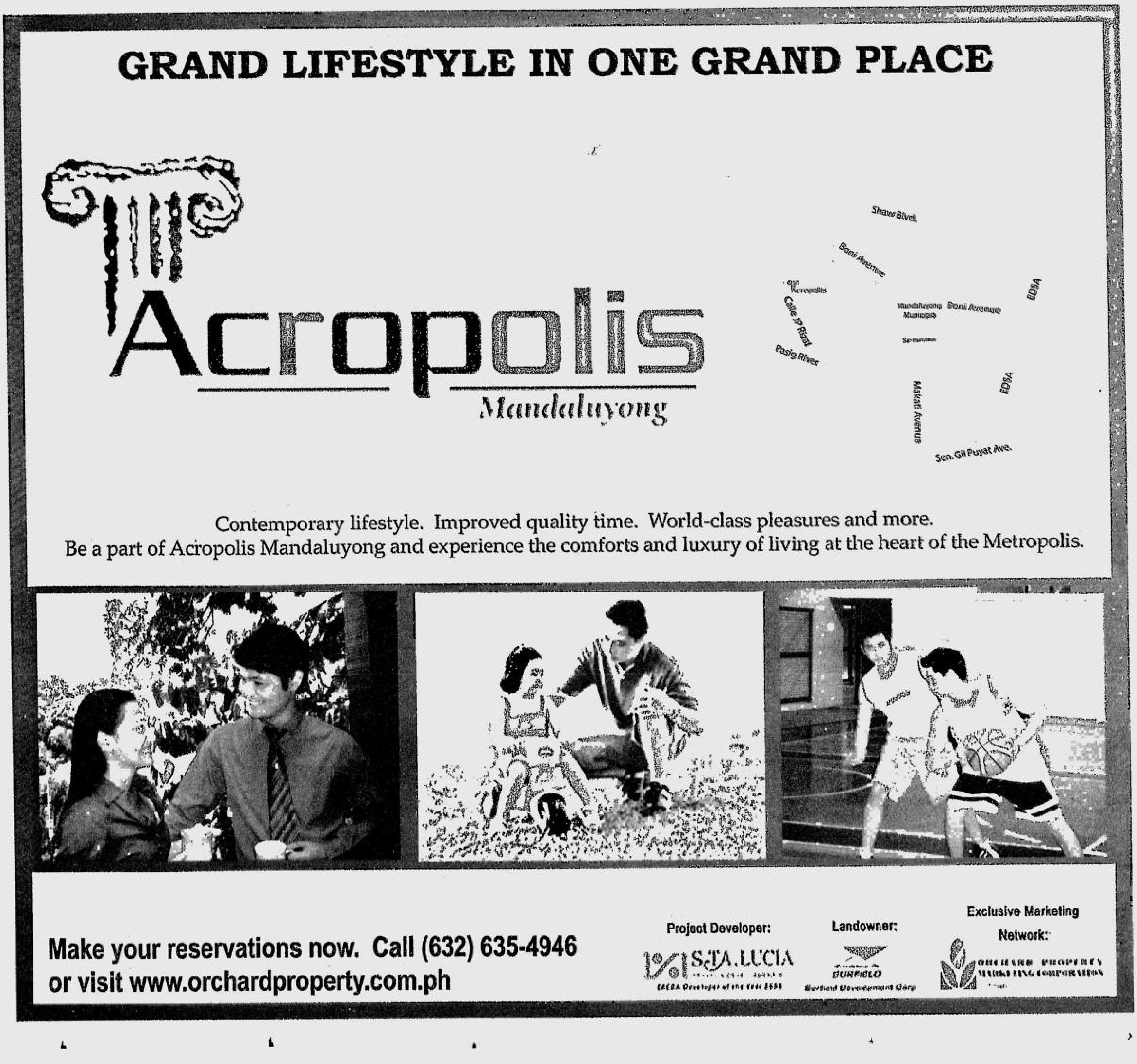

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Gov't won't beat deadline in talks

By Manny Mogato
Reuters

THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT IS NOT LIKELY TO MEET A SEPT. 30 deadline for a fresh initiative to resurrect peace talks with the country's largest Muslim rebel group, a member of the government's negotiating team said yesterday.

Manila will instead ask for more time to consult with political, economic, religious and civic leaders on the rebels' demand for an enlarged Muslim homeland in Mindanao to end nearly 40 years of insurgency.

"We've not totally given up on restarting the talks," said the member of the government's peace panel, who requested anonymity. "We simply needed to talk to more people and get a consensus on what new initiative would be put across the table."

The government has been talking with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) for 10 years to try and end a conflict that has killed more than 120,000 people and displaced over a million since the late 1960s.

Negotiations have stalled since June because of differences over the size and wealth of a proposed homeland for about 3 million Muslims in Mindanao.

After the latest round of informal talks on Sept 6-7 broke down, the Philippine government asked Kuala Lumpur, which has been hosting negotiations, to allow the Philippines to package a new initiative by Sept. 30.

No details about the initiative have been released and analysts suspect President Macapagal-Arroyo is reluctant to agree to a deal which could upset politicians loyal to her in Mindanao and risk their reelection next year.

"Everything may have to wait until after the elections in May because the President would not risk losing the support of Muslim and Christian politicians in the south who were opposing any deal with the rebels," said Earl Parreno, analyst at the Institute of Political and Electoral Reform.

Mohaqher Iqbal, the rebels' chief negotiator, said the MILF would not be surprised if the government asked for an extension to the Sept. 30 deadline.

"It only demonstrates the government's lack of political will to end the conflict," he told Reuters from his hideout in Mindanao.

Iqbal said the MILF was flexible on the issue of territory and was willing to give up claims to wider areas already occupied by Christian settlers, but insisted that no conditions should be attached to a deal.

At another front, the government is battling extremists but its campaign was facing criticisms from Muslim leaders for exacting a heavy toll on the Mulsim population.

"Some displaced Sulu residents have told us how difficult their lives have become since the military offensives started in August," Amirah Lidasan, secretary general of the party-list group Suara Bangsamoro, said.

Lidasan said that residents in areas affected by the operation have experienced difficulty finding food for Ramadan because they could not easily go to their farms and harvest their crops. *With a report from Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao*

JEOFFREY MAITEM/INQUIRER MINDANAO

CHILDREN of the Kilangan Elementary School listen to English proficiency lessons in Pagalungan, Maguindanao through CD. The project has caught the attention of many pupils who also wanted to learn English.

English proficiency classes reach kids in Muslim village alien to foreign tongue

PAGALUNGAN, MAGUINDANAO—FROM MONdays to Fridays, 12-year-old Bai Linang Daud goes to the Kilangan Elementary School here.

Like any typical Grade 5 pupil in the school, she looks forward to another day of exciting lectures aimed at honing her English proficiency skill.

With her classmates, Daud listens to English lessons through a compact disk player not far from where she sits inside the classroom.

"All ears to the CD, all eyes to the module," the teacher instructs the pupils as the CD lessons play.

Five minutes later, the teacher asks a battery of questions about the story they just heard from the CD.

Bai Linang stands up and answers her teacher in clear English.

Kilangan, which is 10 km from the highway, is a typical Maguindanao farming village.

Many residents of the village, young and old alike, do not speak English because they did not go to school.

But it is now changing.

Like Bai Linang, more than a thousand Maguindanaon pupils here are learning the language.

Bai Linang said even her parents and siblings have started learning the language.

"Funny as it is, my parents and siblings speak English when we feel the mood and it helps us forget our problems," she said.

The English proficiency classes are a project made in partnership between the New York-based Real World Productions (RWP) and the Alliance for Mindanao Off-grid Renewable Energy (Amore) Program.

The two organizations have also agreed to produce radio programs for English proficiency, which will be broadcast to conflict areas in Mindanao.

Amore will also provide electricity to areas where power is not available so residents can plug their radio in to listen to the lessons.

Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao

Cavite townsfolk launch protests vs ₱250-M landfill near mountain

CALAMBA CITY—RESIDENTS OF TERNATE, Cavite are up in arms against the construction of a P250-million landfill facility in a mountainous area in their town for fear that it might adversely affect their health and the environment.

Fr. Gilbert Reyes, Ternate parish priest, said they have started a signature campaign to stop the scheduled construction of the eight-hectare garbage facility in Barangay Sapang this year.

Reyes said concerned residents have also formed the group Ternateños Against Landfill (TAL) to gather support from other sectors for their cause.

"So far, we have already gathered 12,000 signatures against the landfill project. Ternateños abroad have also expressed their full support for our campaign," Reyes said in a mobile phone interview on Tuesday.

Known for its world-class beach resorts that include Puerto Azul and Caylabne, Ternate is a fourth class municipality in the northwest part of Cavite.

The town of less than 20,000 people is also known for its Chavacano dialect. To register their strong opposition to the project, some 3,000 residents trooped to the streets on Monday to denounce their local officials for allegedly concealing the truth about the project.

Reyes said the "questionable" landfill project poses great danger not only to the residents of their town but to the entire province as well because the proposed site of the 8-hectare garbage facility is located near a watershed area.

"Ternate is one of the water basins of Cavite, a major source of clean water for the province. If the landfill project pushes through, it will definitely affect our water supply," he told the INQUIRER.

Environsave Inc., the proponent of the multimillion-peso landfill project, is a subsidiary of CAVDEAL, Cavite's biggest construction corporation.

Its owner, Lambert Lee, is a known close friend of Gov. Erineo "Ayong" Maliksi who has openly expressed his support for the project.

Reyes said despite the explanations of the proponent, "they cannot hide the truth that there is no successful landfill area in the country and even abroad." *Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Twister drops baby on roof, alive

NA NAY!
SAAN NANAMAN KAYA LUMUSOT ANG BATANG 'YON ?!

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

ZAMBOANGA CITY—A year-old infant swept off his family's house by a twister generated by typhoon "Milenyo" survived the ordeal that added another story to a long, long list of tales of luck.

A twister triggered by typhoon Milenyo swept the year-old infant in Barangay Sinunuc on Wednesday evening. The infant, identified as Albasin Sabtula, landed on a roof and survived with some bruises, according to social welfare officer Francisco Barredo.

Four other members of the Sabtula family were injured because of debris when the whirlwind blew away the roof of their house.

Lt. Commander Roy Echeverria, of the Coast Guard in Western Mindanao, said Milenyo also led to the sinking of a pump boat in Isabela City in Basilan on Sept. 27.

The cargo vessel MV Seabird was passing by and its crew plucked the pump boat's passengers out of the turbulent waters. *Julie Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao*

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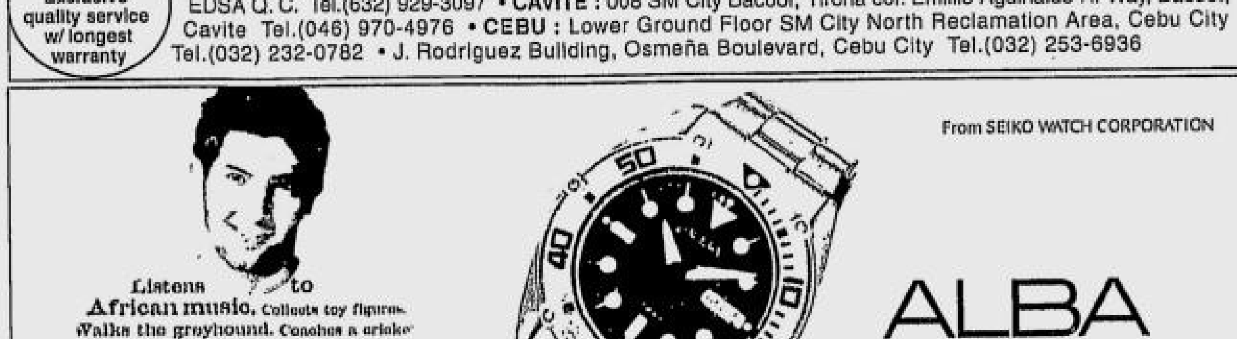
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Editor Jun Bandayrel
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Boracay residents brace for worst

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Boracay Island

TWENTY YEARS AGO, A 21-YEAR-OLD backpacker from Vancouver, Canada, came to Boracay Island in Malay, Aklan, and instantly fell in love with its white beaches, crystal-clear waters and fresh air.

A year later, he married a Filipina, bought a 3,500-sq m property, and decided to settle there for good.

John Munroe now speaks Filipino fluently and has three children—aged 6, 15 and 17. He operates the popular Cocomangas Shooter Bar near Boat Station 1 in Balabag village.

He rarely goes home to Canada and busies himself operating his joint.

Two weeks ago, Munroe was seen among residents and business owners in a rally on the resort island. He was carrying a placard that read "Lupa sa Boracay ay Amin (Land in Boracay is Ours)."

He was among expatriates who joined locals opposing the proclamation of President Macapagal-Arroyo declaring more than half of the island "alienable and disposable." The order opens pricey commercial lots to public auction.

"I don't agree with the proclamation. I think it's unfair," said Munroe.

Opening the land claimed by present occupants is "ridiculous," he said. He fears losing his property and investment to someone with money to outbid him.

"I will fight for my land," the Canadian said.

On May 22, Ms Arroyo issued Proclamation No. 1064 classifying 628.96 hectares or 60.94 percent of the 1,032-ha island as alienable and disposable on the premise that the whole of Boracay is government property.

The remaining areas are classified as forest reserves, protected areas and swamps.

Private ownership of lots on the island is technically illegal under Proclamation No. 1801 issued by the late President Ferdinand Marcos on Nov. 10, 1978. Under that law, Boracay and other islands and coves are tourist and marine zones and categorized as public land.

But Aklan Rep. Florencio Miraflores said about 20 percent of the island is titled. Most of the business owners and residents have been occupying other lots for around 30 years, bearing tax declarations as proofs of their legal stay.

The Bureau of Lands of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources said land for commercial use would be sold through public bidding while those for residential use not exceeding 1,000 sq m would be sold directly to the occupant by the government.

The residential property will be sold at the assessed minimum price, while land for commercial and industrial purposes will be sold in a public auction, either through oral or sealed bidding.

Environment Undersecretary for Land Management Manuel Gerochi has assured the present occupants that they would have "priority rights" in the bidding and selling of all types of lots.

They will have the right to equal the highest bid after all the bids have been submitted, he said, as well as the right to be paid for any improvements and investments on the property in case the property is sold to another bidder.

Occupation, not ownership

The DENR has repeatedly pointed out that the tax declaration possessed by the land claimants is "evidence of occupation not ownership."

Gerochi said the disposition of the lots would be subject to provisions of Commonwealth Act No. 141 or the Public Land Act of 1936. The government has no other choice, he said. The law prescribes public bidding in the disposable public land for commercial and industrial use.

But the proclamation has stirred a storm among the owners of around 400 business firms and the 13,000 residents who have vowed to defend their properties.

Briton Robin Doughty, 67, who operates the 20-room B&B Beach Resort with his Filipina wife, said the existing occupants of the land should be granted titles. He said he risked losing his investment in the 5,000-sq m property in an auction.

Residents, whose families have been on the island for generations, said the government should grant their long appeal to have their properties titled instead of opening them to purchase by other investors.

Mila Yap-Sumndad, 60, who owns Casa Asia resort, said the struggle to own properties had already taken more than 20 years. "My son was only a small boy when we started asking the government to recognize our ownership. Now, I have a 2-year-old grandchild and we're still struggling."

Orlando Sacay, chair of the Boracay Foundation Inc. (BFI) which was put up by a group of business owners on the island, said they would be bidding for land that they have developed for years.

With business doing good in the past five years, the prices of lots have soared.

Sacay, who owns Waling-Waling resort, said he bought his 1,489-sq m property at P150 per sq m 20 years ago. The current price of beach-front property runs up to P45,000 per square meter. It is expected to increase because of more tourist arrivals.

More tourists

Last year, tourist arrivals reached 499,457 or 16.48 percent higher than the 428,755 recorded in 2004.

The island's tourism industry has contributed P8.18 billion to the economy last year, 38 percent higher than the P7.88 billion earned in 2004.

Lawyer Quirino Martinez, BFI legal counsel, said the implementation of the proclamation would result to "irreparable damage" to the country's tourism industry because of the uncertainty of investing on the island and continuing businesses in the county's premier tourist destination.

The claimants led by Sacay have petitioned the Supreme Court to issue a temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction against the implementation of Proclamation 1064 by the DENR and to declare that order "null and void."

The petitioners also asked the high court to order the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office and regional technical directors for lands to conduct or allow the survey of their land and approve the survey plan and technical description for titling purposes.

In an en banc resolution dated Aug. 22, the court ordered the DENR to comment on the petition.

Without a TRO, the DENR will conduct a survey to delineate the extent of property claims on the island by next year, which could last from four to five months. Gerochi said the DENR would accept applicants upon completion of the survey.

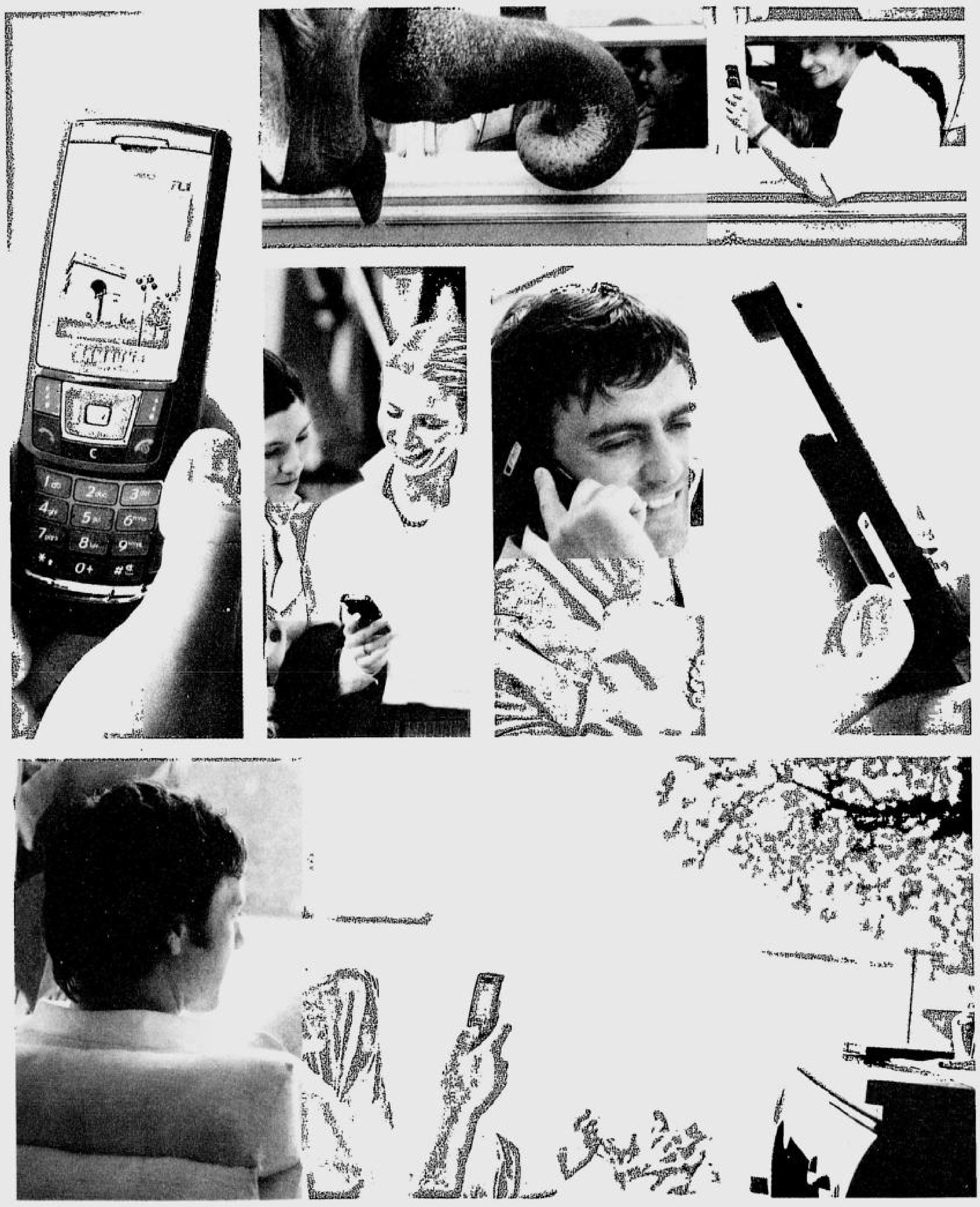
The resort owners said they would defend their lots against the "usurpation" of the government.

They said the DENR should instead wait for the resolution of a separate case pending in the high court on a lower court ruling that recognized the right of land claimants to have their lots titled.

Meantime, long time residents, business owners and expatriates who have settled there are bracing for the worst, even as they remain hopeful that their stay on the island will continue.

Munroe said he had no regrets settling on the island.

"My business is here, my family is here, and I love Boracay. There's no need for me to go elsewhere."



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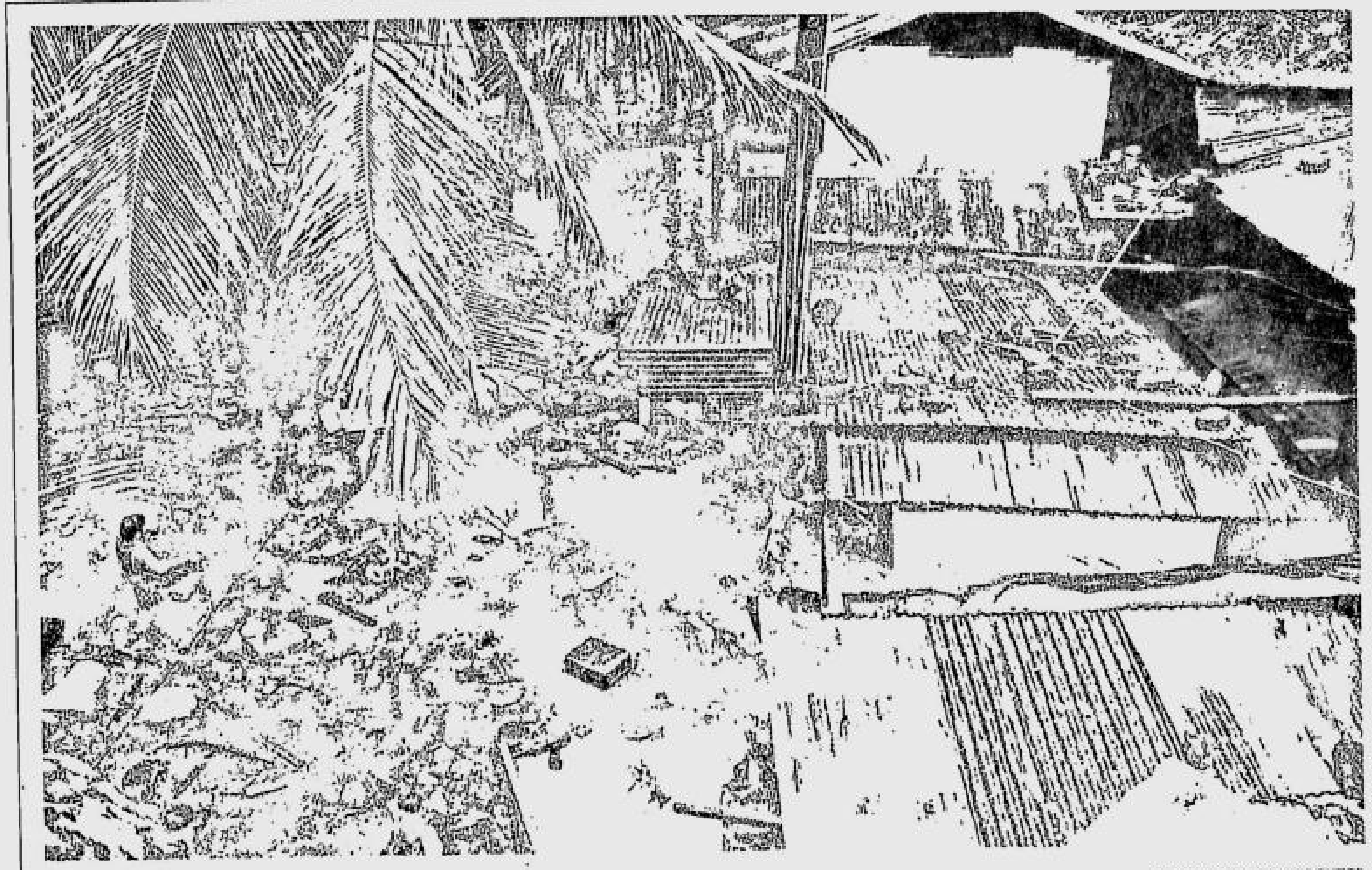

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Power slowly returning; GMA getting impatient

CANDLE POWER. With power knocked out by the typhoon, canteen owner Jane Sangaspa and her daughter Dimple work by candlelight as they try to make it business as usual. They are among the more than 40 million Filipinos in the entire Luzon who had to make do without electricity for the second straight day Friday. AFP

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time charging up their mobile phones.

Favila earlier warned that a prolonged delay in the restoration of power could affect the country's economic growth considering that one of the hardest hit areas was the Calabarzon industrial zone, where power was only at 45 percent normal level (Meralco franchise area in Calabarzon is only at 12 percent capacity).

Bicol problematic

Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said that targeting a 100-percent return to normalcy of power in Luzon was still "problematic" because Bicol was still at zero percent.

Transco chair Arthur Aguilar said that his team found that 47 towers were downed by Milenyo, or nearly double the initial estimate of 25.

At the press conference of the National Disaster Coordinating Council meeting yesterday, Ms Arroyo was visibly irked when Meralco president Jesus "Chito" Francisco announced that the utility was targeting to restore 60 percent of power in its franchise area by 6 p.m. yesterday (from 30 percent at 6 a.m. yesterday), and 80 percent today.

"Can we not accelerate that Chito? With the help of government, like soldiers. You can get all the manpower support from government that you want," said the President, who wanted power in Meralco's franchise area restored to 80 percent by 6 p.m. yesterday.

The President has ordered the deployment of the Army's 51st Brigade or engineering division to help Meralco.

Best efforts

Francisco said that he could only promise 80 percent restoration in Meralco's substations and transmission stations but not in the household areas.

"It's all best efforts. We'll do our best," Francisco said.

Francisco blamed the excessive number of fallen trees in subdivisions—which brought down a number of Meralco's poles—for the delay.

"Most subdivisions have no capacity to cut trees, they are always waiting for us and we have very limited resources. We're bringing down our crews from Bulacan to come down to Metro Manila for help," Francisco said. "We know how important it is to have electricity for air conditioning, radios and television. We will try our best."

Except for the household areas, Francisco assured the key financial centers should have fully restored power by yesterday.

In a statement, Elpi Cuna, Meralco vice president and corporate communication head, appealed to operators of fallen billboards "to immediately help remove these structures which obstruct our electric lines and intrude the flow of vehicular traffic."

"Sadly, these billboards cause more harm to Meralco and to the public," Cuna said.

He said Meralco had also received reports some of its fallen wires were being stolen and asked local officials to help secure these wires.

Francisco appealed to the public to limit their calls to the Meralco call center "to reports of fallen electrical posts and wires only. Customers don't have to report power outages in their areas since this is already being monitored and handled" by Meralco.

28 towers toppled

Transco said in a statement 28 steel towers in Bicol were toppled.

The Naga-Tayabas line between Camarines Sur and Quezon was hardest hit, with 14 towers down, while the typhoon mowed down seven towers along the Kalayaan-Gumaca line between Quezon and Laguna, and four towers in the Gumaca-Labo line between Quezon and Camarines Norte.

All three lines are equipped with 230-kilovolt double circuit lines that carry electricity from generation plants to switch yards that convert power to lower voltages for delivery to end-users.

In the southern part of Metro Manila, wood poles carrying a 230-kV single circuit cable along Sucat-Araneta line was reported to be leaning.

"Typhoon debris have made many areas inaccessible, (but) a Transco helicopter crew is now patrolling the affected areas where equipment and tower replacements parts would be brought later," the state-run firm said.

41 percent normal

Transco said Meralco's services were running at at least 41 percent of normal following restoration of supply in portions of Quezon City, Bulacan, Valenzuela, Manila, San Juan, Mandaluyong, Cainta, Pasig, Makati, Alabang, Cavite and Laguna.

Meralco's franchise also covers Rizal and parts of Pampanga and Quezon.

"Areas outside the Meralco franchise area are able to receive 58 percent of their normal load as power supply in the provinces of Cagayan, Mt. Province, (Benguet), Pangasinan, Nueva Vizcaya, Nueva Ecjija, Tarlac, Aurora, Ilocos (Norte and Sur), Zambales, Bataan and Pampanga has been fully restored," the statement added.

'Milenyo' helps wipe . . .

From page A1

"I don't know whether it's worth the tradeoff, but the strong water current and the powerful winds flushed away the breeding grounds of the dengue mosquitoes albeit, temporarily," Duque told reporters in a joint Cabinet press conference on the government's assessment of the typhoon's aftermath.

"I think this is good news," he said, adding: "Serendipity, as they say."

Duque later told reporters that because the breeding grounds were disturbed, there could be a respite from these mosquitoes between one and two weeks.

He said that cases of dengue, which had been plaguing Metro Manila recently, was actually going down, especially now that October was here.

Dr. Eric Tayag, chief of the Department of Health's National Epidemiology Center, said the "gush of wind and water work temporarily [to eliminate] the mosquitoes' breeding places."

He likened the situation to a pail of water which started filling up and eventually spilled.

"Even a slight cooling of temperatures could affect the way mosquitoes fly and bite people," Tayag added.

He, however, warned that two to four weeks after the typhoons, there could be an upsurge in dengue cases, especially "if people do not clean up."

"Now or this weekend is the time to search and destroy the breeding sites of mosquitoes," Tayag said in a phone interview.

Otherwise, he said mosquitoes would continue to hatch eggs in "artificial containers" and the cycle of dengue would continue.

Mosquitoes thrive in stagnant water and health authorities have asked the public to dispose of old tires and containers with stagnant water which are the favorite breeding grounds of mosquitoes.

Typhoon death toll soars; massive relief, cleanup launched

From page A1

She said that while caring for the victims was the first priority, she had ordered all agencies to monitor the prices of basic commodities and forestall profiteering, quickly restore power in many areas in Luzon and rapidly clear debris and hazards.

The death toll stood at 72 based on reports from local officials gathered by INQUIRER reporters in the affected provinces, including those in the Visayas.

Among those killed were five people in Gen. Trias, Cavite, who drowned after they went out to check on the rising water level in Butas Dam—only to end up being swept away after the dam burst and swamped them, Mayor Jonjon Ferrer said.

Thirty others were missing in the incident.

At least 11 people were killed in two landslides caused by the onslaught of the typhoon in two towns in Laguna.

Worst hit was the scenic town of Los Baños, where nine people from an upland village were buried alive under a pile of boulders and mud from Mt. Makiling.

Supt. Steve Ludan, chief of the 406th Laguna police mobile group, said the victims were inside several houses in Barangay Bagong Silang when mountain rocks and mud came cascading at around 10:30 a.m.

The victims included children aged 2 and 7.

Two other people were killed in another landslide caused by heavy rains in Calauan town, also in Laguna.

Slim chance

Eight others were still missing in the two landslide incidents, police said.

"If you can only see what happened here, you'll realize that it's just impossible for anyone to survive this incident. But we're hoping for the best," Ludan told the INQUIRER.

Tallies gathered by INQUIRER reporters had 20 people dead in Quezon, 15 in the Bicol region, 13 in Cavite, 11 in Laguna, five in Eastern Visayas, four in Metro Manila, two in Batangas and two in Bulacan.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said Malacañang was not yet ready to declare Metro Manila and the other affected areas under a state of calamity until it got a clearer picture of the situation.

At a special Cabinet meeting she called to assess the situation, Ms Arroyo said:

"The welfare of the people comes first and our paramount objective is to save lives and homes, and make sure enough food, medicine and relief supplies are available."

Tropical depression sighted

Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz, chair of the National Disaster Coordinating Council, said that another tropical depression had been spotted and was about "three or four days away from the Philippines."

Weather bureau officials said the tropical depression, called Neneng, was about 2,000 km east of the Visayas and expected to enter the Philippine area of responsibility on Sunday.

"If it doesn't change direction, it might also hit landfall somewhere in Luzon," Cruz said.

Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya said his department was prepared to allocate P240 million in calamity funds to help ease the impact of Milenyo.

The typhoon affected 60,820 persons or 12,345 families.

Damage in Metro Manila

Total houses damaged stood at 235. There were also 1,026 houses partially damaged.

Civil defense Executive Director Anthony Golez said that for Region 8, the total damage to infrastructure, crops and fisheries already amounted to P133 million.

In Metro Manila, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando said that the typhoon had damaged P100 million in landscaping and P30 million in traffic equipment.

Fernando said that it would take a week to clear the roads. In Metro Manila, 12 billboards were felled by the storm, he said.

So far, total damage to infrastructure in affected areas amounted to more than P100 million, according to Public Works and Highways Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane.

AN OBSTACLE COURSE is what North Bay Boulevard has become after electrical posts toppled by the typhoon rendered it unpassable by anything bigger than a bicycle. REM ZAMORA

No trains running

Agriculture Secretary Domingo Panganiban said that his officials were still validating whether the palay crops could still be recovered in all the regions that had been affected.

"But we have a lot of losses of seaweeds and fish pens which are valued at approximately P125 million," Panganiban said.

Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza said that the MRT, LRT, PNR trains were still non-operational but "as soon as there is restoration of electricity," they should resume running.

The Department of Trade and Industry is tightly monitoring all markets in affected regions, according to Trade Secretary Peter Favila.

Mayor Ferrer said their search and rescue teams were looking for the other victims of the dam collapse in Gen. Trias.

"We are expecting the death toll to rise," Ferrer said.

Dam suddenly broke

He said the victims were residents of Sunnybrooke Subdivision in Barangay San Francisco who had gone to check the water level at Butas Dam.

Ferrer said they were apparently trying to check if it was necessary for them to leave their homes and move to higher ground.

"Witnesses said part of the dam suddenly gave way as the dam was already swollen with water. The victims were then swept away by the water," he said.

Ferrer said the age-old dam had been used primarily for irrigation and was built during the Spanish colonial period.

Cavite Gov. Erineo "Ayong" Maliksi has put the entire province under a state of calamity.

Maliksi said the typhoon ravaged mostly fruit trees and high-value crops like banana and coffee.

Back to normal

Domestic and international flights returned to normal yesterday but the Ninoy Aquino International Airport was jampacked with passengers.

"It is terrible!" one airport official told the INQUIRER while inspecting the Naia 1 terminal.

Flights that arrived yesterday one after the other were nearly double the usual incoming flights that the Naia 1 accommodates on regular days.

A check made by the INQUIRER showed that as of 3 p.m., there were some 25 flights mostly coming from Asia and the Middle East scheduled to arrive at the Naia 1 until midnight.

Missing yachtsmen

The typhoon left at least eight people missing after their yachts, including one that was supposed to serve as a floating restaurant, were battered by big waves on Manila Bay.

One of the missing was a crew member of the MY Limahong, which was dragged from the south entrance of the Manila Yacht Club in Manila at the height of Milenyo and sank near the Baclaran breakwater in Parañaque.

Five of its crew members were rescued by passing tankers.

Also reported missing was one crew member of the MY Tristar. *Nikko Dizon and Leila B. Salaverria and Delfin Mallari, Ephraim Aguilar; Joanna Los Baños, Nina Calleja, Inquirer Southern Luzon, and Vicente S. Labro and Joey Gabieta, Inquirer Visayas*

Thailand loses US military aid

WASHINGTON—THE UNITED States stripped millions of dollars in military aid from its ally Thailand on Thursday, in protest at the coup by top generals that ousted civilian Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra.

The sanctions jolted years of close links between Thai and US forces in the Asia-Pacific, which co-hosts the region's biggest annual American war games.

But some aid deemed crucial to US national security was spared, notably in the field of counterterrorism, in which the kingdom has emerged as a low-key, yet valued partner in the US battle against al-Qaida.

"In response to the military coup on Sept. 19 in Thailand, the United States has suspended almost $24 million of assistance to the Thai government," State Department spokesperson Sean McCormack said.

The aid cutoff involved foreign military financing, international military education and training, and peacekeeping operations.

"The United States continues to urge a rapid return to democratic rule and early elections in Thailand," McCormack said. "We look forward to being able to reinstate these programs after a democratically elected government takes office."

The sanctions were imposed automatically under a US law which forbids assistance to the government of a country where an elected leader has been deposed in a coup.

But using a waiver, Washington will maintain $9.77 million in aid to Thailand deemed to be in US national interests, focusing on counterterrorism, combating weapons of mass destruction and fighting communicable diseases.

The United States had previously condemned the coup and called on the generals to call elections before their one-year deadline.

Official US military trips to Thailand had previously been suspended and all temporary defense duties in Thailand frozen, according to Stars and Stripes, a daily newspaper published for the US military.

US military personnel in Thailand on temporary orders have been recalled, it said.

The White House has also hinted that so far inconclusive talks with Bangkok on a free trade agreement might also depend on a return to democratic rule.

Thailand is a US diplomatic and non-Nato ally and has been a voice for democratic reform in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), which also includes several totalitarian states.

The fate was also unclear of the next annual "Cobra Gold" live-fire exercise, the largest US war games in Asia, which the United States hosts along with Thailand.

The exercises, launched 25 years ago and originally limited to US and Thai troops, had been expanded in recent years to include an antiterror component.

Thailand has also played an important role in the US "war on terror" launched after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks.

Hambali, leader of the al-Qaida-affiliated Southeast Asian terror group Jemaah Islamiyah, was captured in the country in August 2003.

But Thailand has denied reports in the US media that it was one of the sites for the CIA's secret prisons, now emptied, for top al-Qaida suspects.

In recent weeks, the United States had registered concern at an insurgency raging in the Muslim-majority south of the mainly Buddhist kingdom, fearing it could feed into Southeast Asia's al-Qaida-linked terror networks. *AFP*

Junta taps ex-general as new ...

From page A1

GENERAL Surayud Chulanont with ousted Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra in 2003. AP

be announced this weekend or Monday, after it receives approval from King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

The expected appointment of Surayud was likely to be widely praised in Thailand.

Over a 40-year career in the military, Surayud garnered a reputation for effectiveness, tact and incorruptibility, the latter a trait not shared by a number of officers in Thai military ranks. Upon his retirement in 2003, he was appointed to the Privy Council, the top advisory body to the king.

During his career he fought Thai communist insurgents and handled the sensitive situation along the embattled Cambodian border during the 1980s. He was regarded as close to the American military, which praised him throughout his career.

A devout Buddhist, Surayud spent time as a monk after leaving the Army and often said he had no intention of entering the political fray.

Yesterday, a number of officers loyal to Thaksin were removed from commands and transferred to either inactive positions or attached to agencies that take them outside the chain of command.

An announcement on official media said the king endorsed the changes.

Two members of the ruling council—Gen. Winai Phattiyakul and Gen. Boonsang Niempradit—were given more powerful positions while five other Army generals who had stood up to Thaksin also received promotions.

Winai is to become permanent secretary of the Defense Ministry, a key slot, while Boonsang was promoted from deputy supreme commander of the armed forces to supreme commander.

Patchara Kampitak, president of the Reporters Association of Thailand, said that reporters from several Thai media outlets visited coup leader Gen. Sondhi Boonyaratkalin on Friday and received assurances "about freedom of the media."

Kampitak quoted Sondhi as saying the interim premier would not be a "surprise to the media."

"His face is familiar to you (reporters) and he is the man to 'wai' (greet with respect) without any qualms," Kampitak quoted Sondhi as saying.

Akara Thiprot, a spokesperson for the council, said an interim constitution has been completed and sent to the Royal Palace. He hoped the constitution could be announced Saturday or Sunday, to be followed by the formal announcement of the prime minister on the weekend or Monday.

Korn Chatikavanij, deputy general secretary of the Democrat Party, said earlier that Surayud was an "appropriate" choice.

Although being a former general might give the outside world the impression the military was merely transferring power to one of its cronies. that would be neither true nor relevant, he said.

"What is important is domestic reconciliation and General Surayud is ideal for that," Korn said.

The coup leaders accused Thaksin of corruption and causing schisms in Thai society. His government was overthrown while he was visiting New York. He is now in London and has not indicated if or when he may try to return to Thailand.

Large demonstrations early this year demanding Thaksin's ouster reflected a polarized Thai society, and many Thais have greeted the coup as a resolution of a national crisis. *AP*

'Milenyo' a puzzle to Pagasa

By Blanche S. Rivera

TYPHOON "MILENYO" LEFT not just a trail of destruction in Metro Manila, but a number of questions for the country's meteorologists.

Milenyo's intensity and direction were abnormal for a tropical cyclone that had hit land mass before striking Metro Manila, according to Pagasa.

"We are now studying what happened to Milenyo. It should have weakened when it hit land mass because it gets its strength from water. The land mass should have had made an impact," Pagasa weather chief Nathaniel Cruz said.

Pagasa, which can predict a cyclone's position up to five days ahead, noted the abnormal behavior of Milenyo as early as Monday when it was still a tropical depression off Samar.

Based on numerical models, Milenyo should have moved towards north Bicol before hitting Cagayan Valley on its way out.

"Milenyo behaved abnormally. There are many factors that could have caused it to differ from the pattern. We want to know what other parts of the atmosphere may have affected it," Cruz said.

He said the Department of Science and Technology and Pagasa were now studying interesting events that occurred in 2006, which he dubbed as the "year of so many weather abnormalities."

Here comes Neneng

Barely four months after coming out of La Niña, the Philippines is facing a developing El Niño in the equatorial Pacific region.

The arrival of the southwest monsoon has also been delayed and winds have been pushed to Visayas and Mindanao instead of Luzon, which the monsoon normally affects.

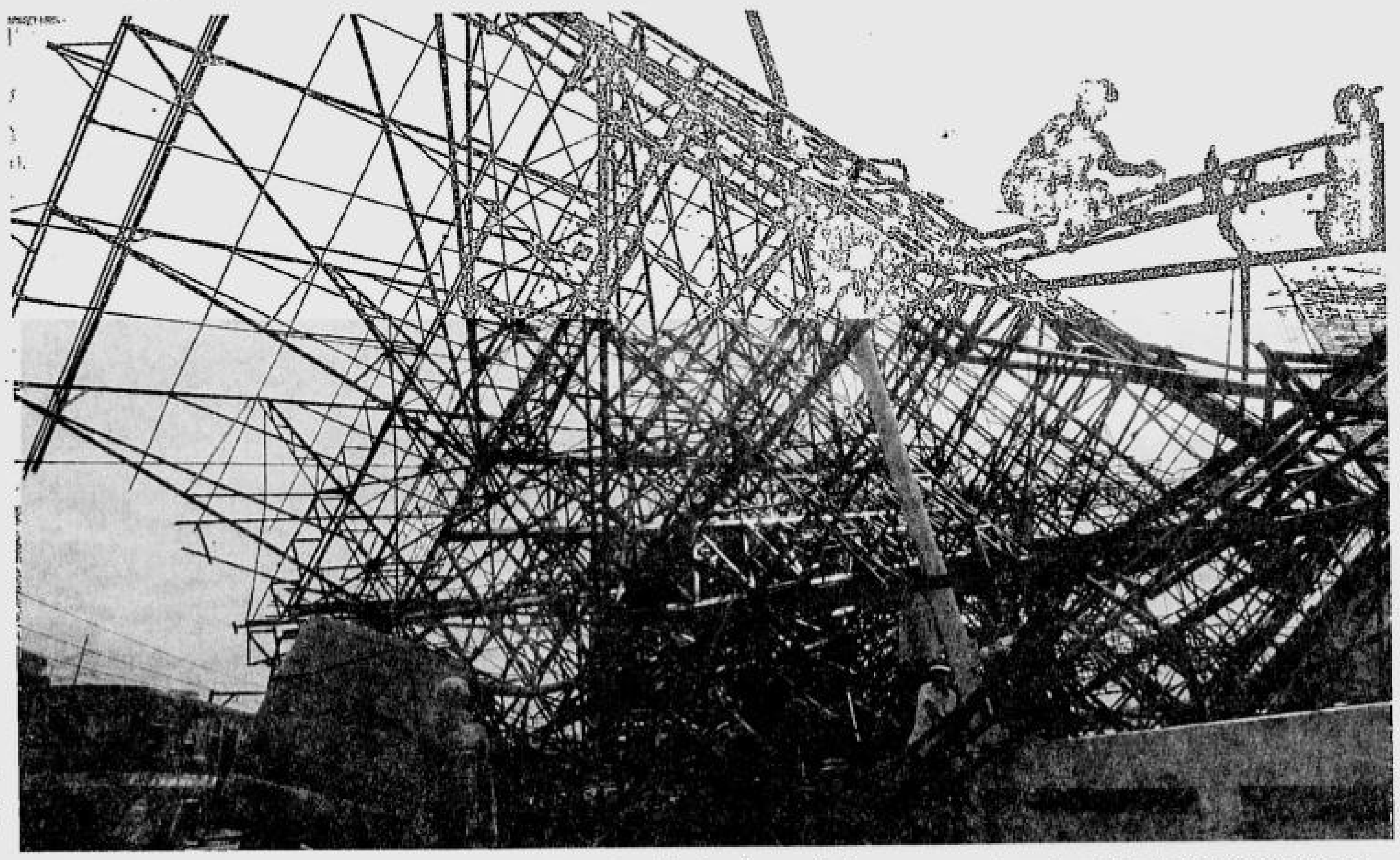
Milenyo was spotted yesterday 400 km west of Iba, Zambales and would be out of the Philippine area of responsibility today.

A tropical depression, Neneng, was tracked 2,000 km east of Visayas and expected to enter the Philippine area of responsibility on Sunday.

"Neneng is still approaching but it is already a tropical depression. There is a good chance that it will strengthen by the time it enters the PAR," Cruz said.

Storm brewing over killer billboards

From page A1



THE KILLER billboard, which toppled along Edsa on Thursday, is being dismantled by government workers. The incident has renewed calls for the ban on giant billboards along Metro Manila's busiest thoroughfare. REM ZAMORA

Manila Development Authority who had tried to tear down the billboards for being "public nuisances."

At a briefing yesterday of the National Disaster Coordinating Council, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said Ms Arroyo had ordered Defense Secretary and NDCC Chair Avelino Cruz to draft an administrative order (AO) setting stricter guidelines for billboards along major highways and in crowded places.

Asked whether the President was leaning toward an outright ban of billboards in select areas, Ermita said: "Yes, especially with what happened [on Thursday]."

According to Presidential Management Staff chief Arthur Yap, Ms Arroyo was so "outraged" by the damage wrought by the billboards that she has decided to take executive action on the matter.

"Some Cabinet members are pushing for an outright ban. We'll see," Yap said, adding that the AO could be issued as early as Monday.

Disgusted

Francis Chua, president of the Federation of Filipino Chinese Chambers of Commerce, said that with Ms Arroyo herself expressing disgust over the billboards, "the MMDA should enforce a total ban."

Chua, who represented the business sector at the NDCC meeting, said the MMDA had previously enforced a selective ban on billboards, which "has led to these unfortunate incidents."

Public Works Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. said his department would fast-track inspection of billboards and bring down any structure that would be deemed unfit or hazardous, especially with the expected onset of another typhoon.

Only two days ago, Ebdane expressed helplessness over the failure of the Department of Public Works and Highways to tighten regulations on billboards. He even called on "billboard vigilantes" to tear down the structures themselves.

Ermita said the expected AO was a vindication for MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando, who had long clashed with billboard owners—to little success.

Fernando had earlier urged Ms Arroyo to declare the billboards a nuisance to give his MMDA staff the license to tear the structures down.

The DPWH has begun drafting guidelines for the regulation of billboards.

Ugly

Emmanuel Cuntapay, director of the DPWH's National Building Code Development Office, said the draft guidelines would be submitted to Malacañang next week and would serve as recommendations for the issuance of the AO.

Santiago said she would ask the President to certify her proposed "Anti-Billboard Blight Act" as urgently needed in view of the hazards posed by such structures.

She filed the bill last year but it has not been considered a priority, she said.

"Metro Manila is one of the ugliest and the most unsafe capitals in the world because of these giant billboards. These public hazards are driven by pure corporate greed, without any sense of corporate responsibility. It's time to teach business a lesson," she said.

The senator said that under Article 701 of the Civil Code, mayors could order city engineers to tear down billboards without judicial proceedings.

"Under the Civil Code, these giant billboards are a nuisance because they injure and endanger the safety of others, offend the senses, and obstruct the free passage of public streets and highways," she said.

Santiago said that the giant billboards should be immediately torn down, and that those destroyed by Milenyo should not be restored.

She said the typhoon did not exonerate the billboard owners of liability.

She cited Article 23 of the Civil Code: "Even when an act or event causing damage to another's property was not due to the fault or negligence of the defendant, the latter shall be liable for indemnity if through the act or event he was benefited."

Santiago said local officials were helpless against the proliferation of giant billboards because of the lack of a definitive law.

She said it was for this reason that she filed the anti-billboard blight bill, which was heard by the Senate committee on public works chaired by Sen. Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr.

Santiago said her bill had the strong support of Ebdane, Fernando, Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, Manila Mayor Lito Atienza and other mayors.

She said that for several months, she had pushed for negotiations between the DPWH and advertising firms to produce a version "acceptable" to both government and business.

Santiago said the bill was now ready for sponsorship on the Senate floor but that Revilla wanted her to personally sponsor and defend the measure during the debates.

However, the Senate had taken up other priority bills of Malacañang, such as the Biofuels Act of which she, as chair of the committee on energy, is also the sponsor, she said.

Santiago, who is afflicted with anorexia, is again on medical leave.

But she said she would try to go back to work on Monday to push for the floor debates on the billboards bill.

"I'll take any medication just to get out of bed, so I can stop this billboard blight. It's madness," the senator said.

Same side

House Majority Leader Prospero C. Nograles of Davao and opposition Rep. Roilo Golez of Parañaque found themselves on the same side in speaking out against the giant billboards that littered Metro Manila after Milenyo's devastating sweep.

Nograles said he intended to file an anti-billboard bill in the House similar to the one filed by Senator Santiago.

"It's now time to remove billboards from highly congested roads and highways. Clearly, they are hazardous. We can't sacrifice public safety for the promotion of models' faces and bodies or for advertising profit," he said.

Golez said on Thursday that authorities should no longer ignore the dangers posed by billboards.

"What's happening during this storm to the billboards along Edsa and other places, many of them becoming deadly unguided missiles, shows that they ought not to be there," he said.

Golez said nature had done its part.

"Now the authorities should take care of the rest by removing what remains of the billboards and banning them forever," he said. *With reports from Leila B. Salaverria and Michael Lim Ubac*

Owners to pay for clearing of billboards

By Tarra V. Quismundo

THE METROPOLITAN MANILA DEvelopment Authority will charge at least three billboard owners for the costs of clearing of their collapsed structures, MMDA general manager Robert Nacianceno said yesterday.

"We are still studying the legal aspect, but we will compute our expenses in removing the billboards, then we'll charge it to the owner," Nacianceno said.

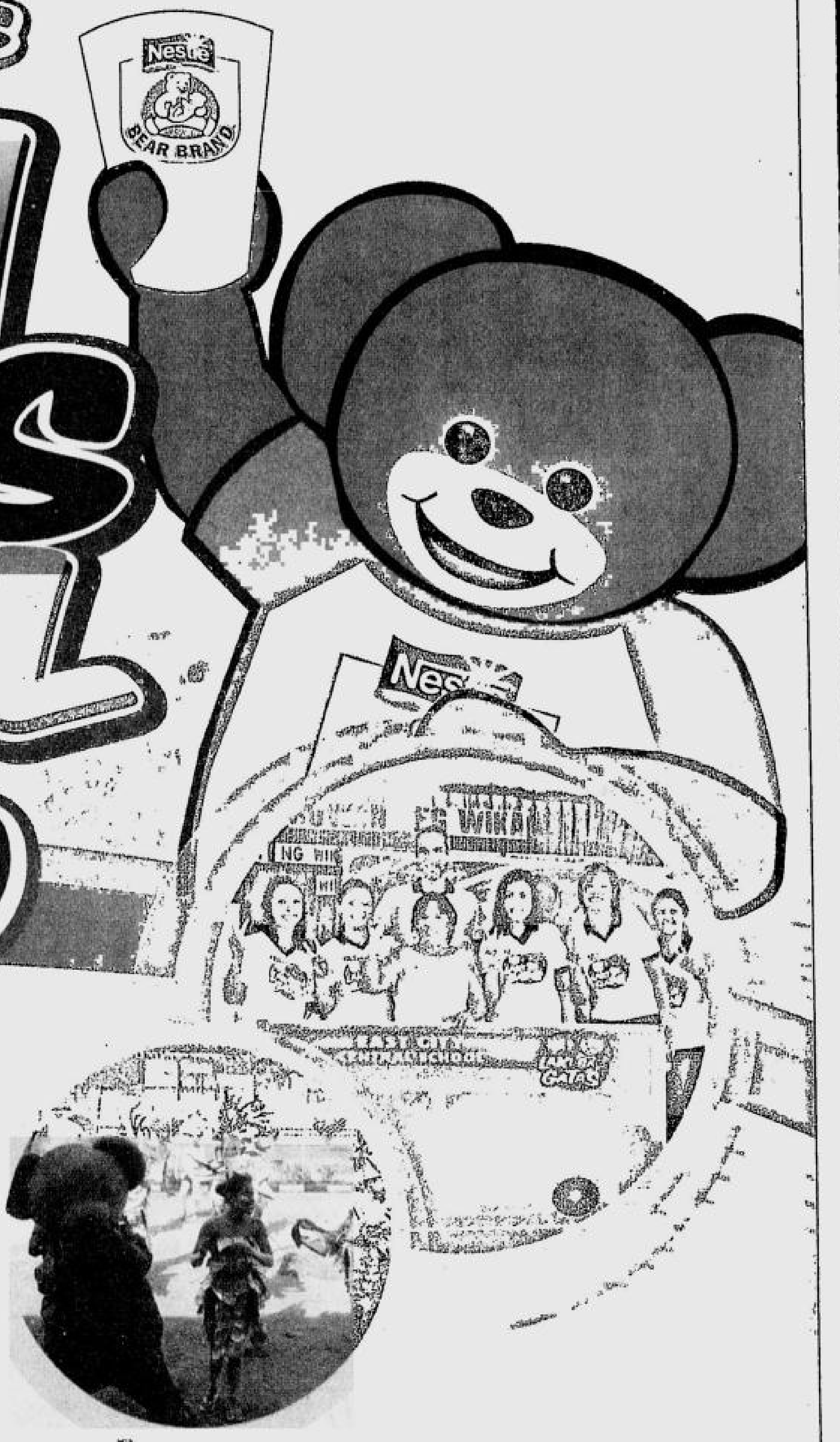
Yesterday, the MMDA was still working a collapsed billboard on Edsa's northbound lane near Estrella Street, which crashed on three vehicles and killed a 60-year-old driver on Thursday.

Clearing crews also have yet to finish clearing the steel mess caused by another giant billboard frame that toppled on the Magallanes Interchange, pinning a passenger bus.

Another collapsed billboard frame on C5 road was still on the road as of yesterday afternoon.

BEAR BRAND HOLDS

LAKI SA GATAS SPECIAL IN CDO



BEAR BRAND held a LAKI SA GATAS (LSG) Special in Cagayan de Oro (CDO) as part of the milk brand's 30th anniversary in the Philippines. CDO was chosen for the special leg since BEAR BRAND is being manufactured in the Nestlé factory in Cagayan de Oro.

The day started with the usual LSG children and mothers' sessions held at the East City Central Elementary School. Led by school Principal Luz Bacarro, teachers, students and parents welcomed the LSG delegation and participated in the different fun-filled and educational activities.

A press luncheon was held afterwards at the Kagayanon Restaurant at the Limketkai Center where Nestlé officials answered the media's questions about the LSG program.

A motorcade of the city was held which started at the Limketkai Center and ended at the CDO factory. It was joined by winners of the special BEAR BRAND label collection drive held weeks before the LSG Special. The winners, composed of teachers, students and parents, were taken on a tour of the factory as part of their prize.

A concert held at the Atrium of the Limketkai Center which featured Rufa Mae Quinto, True Faith, Budoy & Junior Kilat, CDO factory's own Parokya ni Reggie and hosted by Angela Calina capped the LSG Special.

The LSG Special in CDO also capped the nationwide milk education program in the Northern Mindanao area where it had reached 26 schools, 20,705 children and 6,918 mothers, bringing the nationwide total to 250 schools, 200,000 children and 50,000 mothers.

LIMKETKAI CENTER
LAKI SA GATAS

Aplus METRO

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Manila, Muntinlupa declare state of calamity

By Margaux C. Ortiz and Jocelyn R. Uy

THE CITIES OF MANILA AND MUNTINLUPA have declared a state of calamity following the devastation by Typhoon Milenyo.

In Manila, 897 barangays were affected. Mayor Lito Atienza said it was the first time the city council declared a city-wide state of calamity.

Muntinlupa evacuated 1,264 families in the city's eight barangays.

Manila Councilor Ernesto Dionisio, majority floor leader, said, with the declaration, each barangay could use five percent or P30,000-50,000 of its calamity fund for rehabilitation purposes.

Atienza added that the city's P25 million calamity fund would be used to help displaced residents.

The mayor said restoration work in Manila would be hastened with the city government and barangays properly funded and working together. He expected that everything would be back to normal Monday.

In Muntinlupa, the city council approved the release of P15 million for rehabilitation.

"It was so far the worst typhoon to hit the city," said Mayor Jaime Fresnedi. He assured residents the situation was under control.

The Public Order and Safety Office (POSO) said all missing persons were accounted for.

Fresnedi ordered the City Health Office to take steps to prevent an outbreak of diseases, especially dengue.

Staff from the city engineer's office and the sanitation center were also tapped to clear the roads of debris to hasten the restoration of power in the city.

In another development, Atienza ordered Manila city administrator Gaudencio Nable to restore billboards until a new and uniform ordinance was passed by the city council regulating outdoor advertisements.

NOT AN UKAY-UKAY. Taguig residents along C5 dry their clothes after Milenyo's fury. REM ZAMORA

PILA, BALDE. Residents of West Rembo, Makati line up for water rationed by a firetruck. ROMY HOMILLADA

Bodies of 3 drowned kids recovered

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr. and Margaux C. Ortiz

RESCUERS HAVE RECOVERED THE BODIES of three of five children who fell into Laguna Lake Thursday when strong winds destroyed their houses in Taytay, Rizal.

The bodies were found shortly before noon yesterday in Barangay Sta. Ana, according to provincial police director Senior Supt. Freddie Panen.

Those found were Bay Natasa Samama, 10; Bay Natalia Samama, 3; and Tasin Samama Jr., 4.

Still missing were 7-month-old Datu Tasin Samama III, and Antonio Bancali Jr., 2, the local police said.

The five children, four of them siblings, fell into the lake after their houses were swept away by typhoon Milenyo's strong winds and heavy rain.

Meanwhile, the Rizal provincial monitoring center said the number of families evacuated had reached 17,225 as of yesterday afternoon.

Worst hit, based on initial reports, was Taytay, where 15,822 families were now living in evacuation centers. In Angono, at least 2,041 families had been evacuated as of yesterday afternoon.

The situation in at least six of 13 Rizal towns could not be determined as communication lines were cut off.

In Manila, a security guard was killed Thurday afternoon in front of SM Manila by falling debris caused by typhoon Milenyo.

Rufino Caiguingin Jr., 38, of No. 633 Guidon St., Sampaloc, Manila, and employed by Peace Maker Security Agency, was declared dead on arrival at the Philippine General Hospital.

Security guards Angelito Miranda and Bryan de Leon, both assigned at SM Manila, brought the victim to the hospital.

Quezon City reported one fatality.

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In commemoration of the Feast Day of St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus - "God's Little Flower" on October 1, Magnificat Ventures Corporation is enjoining everyone to hear the 10 AM Feast Day Mass at the Shrine of St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus at Manlunas St., Villamor Airbase, Pasay City as a revering tribute to the saint's great life and love of God.

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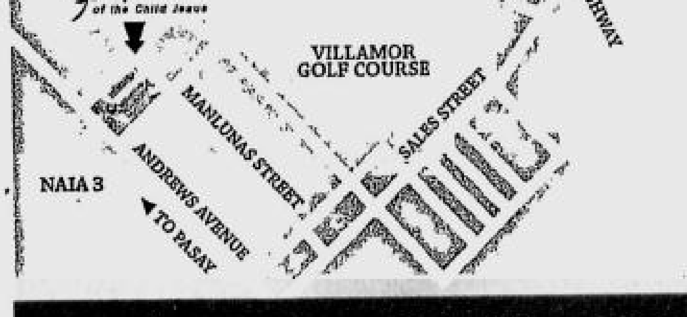

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‘Milenyo’ sets back greening of Makati

By Tarra V. Quismundo and Blanche S. Rivera

URBAN GREENING IN MAKATI WAS SET back by Thursday’s typhoon Milenyo, the strongest storm to hit Metro Manila directly in 11 years.

Before the typhoon, the city’s Department of Environment Services (DES) was working to plant one tree for every four residents in Makati City.

DES chief Danilo Villas said the city already had some 78,000 trees, 42,000 trees shy of its goal. The city wants to plant 120,000 trees to enhance air quality for its almost 500,000 residents.

“We are prioritizing the major thoroughfares so we could free up traffic flow. And then we would go to the barangays,” said Villas.

Villas said trees that could be replanted would be salvaged.

In Taguig City, some 600 trees along main and secondary roads were uprooted due to Milenyo.

Muntinlupa City reported the loss of some 1,000 trees.

Quezon City reported that, as of Sept. 28, there were 82 uprooted trees, three toppled billboards, one fallen Meralco post, and one collapsed wall.

Meanwhile, with some 15 percent of vegetation in Metro Manila damaged, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources is studying what species of trees to use in the replanting.

The Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife in Quezon City, one of Metro Manila’s few remaining urban forests, lost over 60 percent of some 3,000 trees.

DENR National Capital Region director Cora Davis said most of the fallen trees in Metro Manila were “overmature” or aged 50 to 70 years.

She said medium-sized and deep-rooted trees like Palawan cherry, balitbitan, and saraca, amherstia would most likely replace what Metro Manila lost.

With reports by Jocelyn Uy and DJ Yap

A SWAT member inspects the scene where an explosion killed two children and critically wounded another in Karangalan Village, Barangay Manggahan, Pasig.

RAFFY LERMA

Explosion kills 2 boys in Pasig

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

TWO BOYS WERE KILLED WHILE another was seriously injured yesterday morning in Pasig City when a suspected grenade cartridge exploded as they were collecting junk to sell.

PO2 Lardy Ignacio said the instantly killed were grade school students Jefferson Remorin, 12, and Jomar Torres, 11.

Bystanders rushed Remorin and Torres to the Arnaiz Hospital in Cainta, Rizal where they were declared dead on arrival.

Their friend, Mark Ferdinand Manalo, 10, was being treated at the Amang Rodriguez Medical Center as of yesterday afternoon, Ignacio said.

Unconfirmed reports said two more boys were injured. Ignacio said they were verifying the information.

The policeman said the boys gathered shortly before 10 a.m. under the trees on Kaibigan Street near corner Magsaysay Street in Barangay Manggahan to sort the junk they had collected.

The area was just meters away from a junk shop.

Quoting witnesses, Ignacio said one of the boys tried to dismantle what appeared to be a big bullet with a gold cap that police suspected to be a 40mm grenade usually fired using launchers.

Ignacio also received reports the explosive was inside a mineral water bottle. One of the boys reportedly tried to get it out of the plastic container.

Bystanders were shocked by the sudden explosion.

Shrapnel from the explosion also hit nearby trees, creating large holes.

Bomb technician PO3 Lito Lagunday told the INQUIRER they recovered what looked like a gold cap in the area that seemed to be similar to that of a 40mm grenade special, strong enough to spread shrapnel within a five-meter radius.

But the police could not say exactly what the explosive device was and how the boys got it.

METROBRIEFS

Cop stabbed, suspects nabbed

TWO MEN were arrested yesterday for allegedly stabbing a policeman in Mandaluyong City. Police identified the victim as PO2 Ellecer Tuyay Jr. assigned to a community precinct in the city. The suspects were identified as Romel Casaljay, 24, and Rosendo Sinaylohan, 23, helpers of an agricultural supply store in the city. Police chief Senior Supt. Ericsson Velasquez said Tuyay was out of danger.

Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

Closer monitoring of food vendors proposed

FOOD and drinks peddled in school zones should be monitored to protect the health of children. Quezon City Councilor Restituto Malangen has filed a draft resolution directing the local health office to inspect and monitor food and beverage products sold near schools. He noted that food vendors were not subject to sanitary inspection. No penalties were specified in the one-page resolution.

DJ Yap

Navotas road cleared

A MAJOR thoroughfare in Navotas was declared safe to vehicular traffic after fallen electric posts were removed. Navotas Mayor Toby Tiangco said at least 10 electric posts were removed from Road 10 on North Bay Boulevard by technical men from Transco (National Transmission Co.) yesterday afternoon. Power supply in Navotas and neighboring areas was cut off when the posts fell.

Dinner and golf

FRIENDS, classmates and students of Brother Rafael "Brafe" Donato, FSC, are holding the "Golden Years of Brafe" Oct. 10 at Wack Wack Golf and Country Club to mark his 50 years as a De La Salle Brother. The event, featuring a golf tournament and testimonial dinner, will also raise funds for the Foundation for Sharing a La Sallian Education, which helps deserving students get a La Sallian education. Joining fee is P2,500, inclusive of green fee and dinner. Those who want to join only the dinner will be charged P500. Call 536-5215 or 17 or e-mail ting_yupangco@yahoo.com.

DID YOU KNOW

September 25: The Philippine Heart Center, which is located along East Avenue in Quezon City, was created in 1975 by Presidential Decree No. 673 to render specialized medical services for the prevention and treatment of heart diseases, and to enhance research in the field.

The same decree appropriated P10 million for the initial operation and maintenance of what was then called the Philippine Heart Center for Asia (the word "Asia" was dropped in 1986). The center was inaugurated on Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, 1975. The event was graced by world-renowned cardiovascular experts Christiaan Barnard, Denton Cooley, Donald Effler and Charles Bailey.

Cyril L. Bonabente, INQUIRER Research

Bin Laden and I have crossed paths

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

EVERY TIME I SEE BIN LADEN’S PICTURE, I always swear I’ve seen or met the guy in the past.

I can’t be mistaken about him and I once crossing paths. I have a short memory for recalling names, but I have a long memory for faces.

A friend, Sabrina Artadi, who was married to a Saudi labor recruiter, Fouzi Bondagjy, told me recently Bin Laden was here in the country numerous times.

She said she even served Bin Laden and Bondagjy dinner at their condominium unit at the Twin Towers in Makati in 1988 and early 1990s.

After hearing Sabrina, a former Binibining Pilipinas titleholder, talk about meeting Bin Laden, I now know where I met Bin Laden. He was one of the Arab guests at the inauguration of the Al Farouq Institute in Puerto Princesa City in 1994.

I was visiting a friend in Puerto, then Supt. Marcelo Ele Jr., who was Palawan provincial director, when he invited me to the inauguration of the institute whose aim supposedly was to bridge the gap between Christians and Muslims in Palawan.

Al Farouq Institute is now closed.

***

There’s a “white paper” circulating among media outlets and press offices of government agencies linking some reporters, columnists and editors to smugglers or smuggling activities at the piers and airports.

The paper does not mention my name and those of my brothers Erwin and Raffy.

I haven’t seen that paper, but I was told that some journalists who were mentioned suspect that it came from us.

How naïve or *bobo* could you get, fellas!

First, I don’t operate that way. If you’re corrupt, I tell you upfront; I don’t hit people in the back. I’m not a coward.

Second, I or we don’t have the means to mount a black propaganda campaign that is very expensive.

We have enough trouble fending off libel and other cases being filed against us left and right, not to mention the death threats coming our way—to think about trivial things.

I subscribe to what the Greek dramatist Euripides said: “Whom the gods wish to destroy, they first make mad.”

My brothers and I are not crazy to court the ire of our media colleagues whose sympathy we need now more than ever.

₱ 99++

Cebu - Clark v.v.
Travel period: October 12 to December 15, 2006

Cebu - Bacolod v.v.
Travel period: October 2 to December 15, 2006

Manila to Laoag v.v.
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QC shops to become more eco-friendly

By DJ Yap

A TOTAL OF 132 SHOP OWNERS IN QUEZON City has received P100,000 vouchers that they can use to buy environment-friendly tools and equipment.

Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. and officials of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources issued the vouchers to help beef up Quezon City’s campaign against the use of ozone-depleting substances like freon in airconditioning and refrigeration.

The program, part of the World Bank assisted Voucher System Grants, benefits owners and operators of airconditioning and refrigeration service shops.

Beneficiaries will use the vouchers to purchase tools and equipment like a portable leak detector, a recovery and recycling machine, a recovery cylinder, a vacuum pump and meter, and a nitrogen regulator.

Joining Belmonte in awarding the vouchers after the flag-raising ceremony at the Quezon City Hall Risen Garden on Monday were Environment Undersecretary Demetrio Ignacio and other officials.

The activity was part of DENR’s celebration of the Philippine Ozone Month, in coordination with the city’s Environmental Protection and Waste Management Department.

The Philippine Voucher System was described by the DENR as an effective strategy in changing the practice and behavior of operators, owners and technicians in the airconditioning and refrigeration industry.

Airconditioners and refrigerators contain chlorofluorocarbons, a family of chemical compounds that contribute to the depletion of the ozone layer.

After the awarding, an orientation for the grantees on the proper handling of the recovery machine was held.

DENR will also conduct ozone emission testing of Quezon City government-issued vehicles to determine if they comply with environment safety standards.

US ENTREPRENEUR Anousheh Ansari and her husband Hamid smile at an airport hours after landing in the town of Kustanai in northern Kazakhstan. AP

Half of world's population lacks access to basic sanitation, says UN

UNITED NATIONS—ALMOST HALF OF the world's population, mainly in Africa and Asia, lacks access to basic sanitation, increasing the risk of diarrhea and other diseases fatal to children, according to a UN report released on Thursday.

Unicef, the UN children's fund, concluded in a study on water and sanitation in developing nations that UN goals could be met on clean water, especially in urban areas, but the same was not true for access to even the crudest of toilets.

The report, Progress for Children, surveyed available clean water and sanitation facilities and calculated which countries could meet UN goals of cutting in half by 2015 the proportion of people without safe drinking water and basic sanitation.

More than one billion people were without clean water in 2004 from sources such as wells or springs, a number that could increase as the population grows, the report said.

It said the inaccessibility of clean water was especially acute in sub-Saharan Africa.

Arid lands, rampant poverty and raging conflicts in parts of the vast continent make it particularly hard for women and children to get safe drinking water and access to proper sanitation, Maria Mutagamba, Uganda's minister of state for water, lands and environment, told a UN news conference.

Northern Uganda is home to a vicious 20-year civil war that has killed tens of thousands and forced nearly two million people from their homes, many of them forced into squalid camps.

"Children have got to walk long distances, drop out of school to go out and look for water," Mutagamba said. "There are areas in my own part of the country, where when it is dry, schools just close and the children just move with the animals in search of water." Among the worst-affected nations, where less than half the population could find proper water sources, were Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Niger, Equatorial Guinea and Chad, the report said.

"Despite commendable progress, an estimated 425 million children under the age of 18 still do not have access to an improved water supply and over 980 million do not have access to adequate sanitation," said Ann Veneman, Unicef's executive director and a former US secretary of agriculture.

People living in arid rural areas in North Africa and the Middle East also suffer from lack of water. In Djibouti, Iraq and Morocco, for example, almost half of the rural population have no access to proper drinking water.

Of the 2.6 billion people worldwide without access to proper sanitation, about 2 billion live in rural areas, some two-thirds in sub-Saharan Africa and 37 percent in South Asia.

At the same time, the largest gains were in Asia, particularly in India and China. But the majority of people in both nations still have inadequate sanitation, Unicef said. *Reuters*

First woman space tourist back on Earth

MOSCOW—A RUSSIAN SOYUZ CAPSULE carrying the world's first woman space tourist and the two crew members of the 13th International Space Station mission landed early Friday in the steppes of Kazakhstan, the control center said.

The capsule carrying Iranian-born American national Anousheh Ansari, Pavel Vinogradov of Russia and US astronaut Jeffrey Williams touched down softly at 0114 GMT north of Arkalyk, Russian news agencies quoted the Russian space flight control center as saying.

It had cast off automatically from the ISS at 2153 GMT Thursday.

"Everything went off as planned, the vessel landed on its side," a center spokesperson said, adding that helicopters and planes of the space service had spotted the capsule while it was still in the sky.

Space service agents helped the cosmonauts out of the capsule and wrapped them in furs to protect them from the cold.

Vinogradov and Williams, who had spent 183 days in the ISS, and Ansari "are in good health," ITAR-TASS quoted a Russian spokesperson as saying. They were put in special chairs to help them recover from weightlessness.

After being examined by a medical team the trio were being taken by helicopter to nearby Kustani from where they were to fly to Moscow for rehabilitation.

Ansari, 40, paid 20 million dollars to spend a week on board the ISS where she carried out medical and biological experiments for the European Space Agency (ESA).

The American woman lived in Iran until the age of 16, and is only the fourth space tourist in history.

Ansari made millions in the telecom sector, and her family has gone on to invest in technology and space exploration, contributing 10 million dollars to the X Foundation, set up to encourage advances in human space flight.

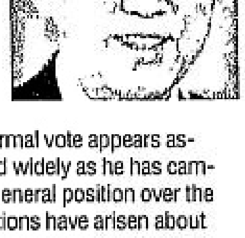
She accompanied the 14th crew, NASA's Michael Lopez-Alegria and Russia's Mikhail Tyurin, to the ISS where the duo will stay till Spring 2007 accompanied by the ESA's Thomas Reiter of Germany who returns to Earth at the end of this year. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

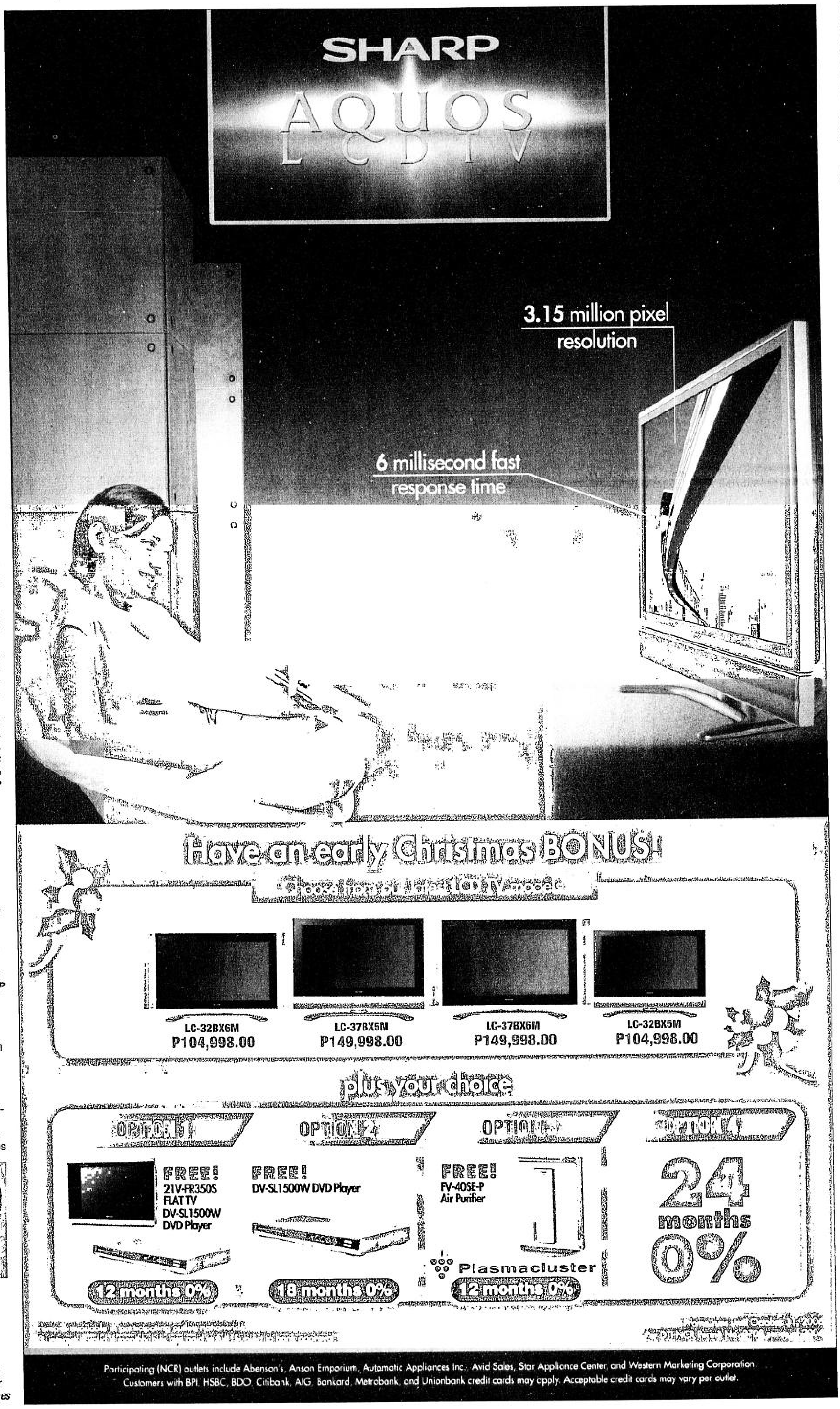
Indonesian woman tests positive for bird flu

JAKARTA—An Indonesian woman hospitalized in East Java has tested positive to the bird flu virus, a hospital official said Friday, bringing the total number of cases in the world's worst-hit country to 69, 52 of whom have died. The woman, 21, is the elder sister of an 11-year-old boy who died on Sept. 18 after being infected with the H5N1 virus, but human-to-human transmission is unlikely as both came into contact with infected poultry. *AFP*

South Korean favored to win top job at UN



UNITED NATIONS—Ban Ki-moon, the South Korean foreign minister, moved significantly closer on Thursday to becoming the successor to Kofi Annan as UN secretary-general by maintaining a wide lead over six other candidates in the Security Council's third informal poll. A fourth and more definitive informal poll is scheduled for Monday, and Ban, with 13 favorable votes from the 15 Council members, goes into that poll as the only candidate with the nine votes required for approval. On Monday, the ballots of the five permanent members, Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States, will be colored different than the others, a way of determining whether any nation with veto power has exercised it. Barring a veto, Ban's election in a subsequent formal vote appears assured. Ban, 62, has traveled widely as he has campaigned for the secretary-general position over the past six months, and questions have arisen about how effective his modest and soft-spoken style would be in bringing discipline and coherence to such a sprawling and rivalry-ridden organization as the United Nations. Annan steps down Dec. 31 after two five-year terms. *New York Times*



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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Bush accused of hiding true Iraq facts

NEW YORK—THE US GOVERNMENT IS HIDING the true extent of violence against its military in Iraq, veteran correspondent Bob Woodward has alleged, saying US troops are attacked on average every 15 minutes.

Woodward, whose 2004 book "Plan of Attack" said that hawks within President George W. Bush's administration had decided to invade Iraq before the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, accuses the regime of hiding the facts from the public.

"It's getting to the point now where there are eight, 900 attacks a week. That's more than a hundred a day. That is four an hour attacking our forces," Woodward says in an interview with CBS television due to air Sunday.

He alleges that the situation on the ground is getting worse and that strategists believe things will only deteriorate, despite the country already seeing the kind of violence that many say has reached the point of civil war.

"The truth is that the assessment by intelligence experts is that next year, 2007, is going to get worse and, in public, you have the president and you have the Pentagon (saying) 'Oh, no, things are going to get better'," he says.

"Now there's public, and then there's private. But what did they do with the private? They stamp it secret. No one is supposed to know," says Woodward.

"The insurgents know what they are doing. They know the level of violence and how effective they are. Who doesn't know? The American public," he adds.

Woodward says Bush is certain that Iraq is on the right course and quotes the president as saying: "I will not withdraw even if Laura and Barney (Bush's dog) are the only ones supporting me." He further alleges that Bush is taking advice on the strategy for Iraq from Henry Kissinger, the controversial Vietnam war-era national security adviser turned secretary of state.

Woodward, who as a fairly junior Washington Post reporter helped uncover the Watergate scandal that eventually led to president Richard Nixon's resignation in 1974, said Kissinger often meets with Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney.

"Now what's Kissinger's advice? In Iraq, he declared very simply, 'Victory is the only meaningful exit strategy'," Woodward says.

"This is so fascinating. Kissinger's fighting the Vietnam War again because, in his view, the problem in Vietnam was we lost our will," he adds.

Kissinger has been accused of committing war crimes, notably over the secret bombing of Cambodia during the Vietnam war.

Woodward's detractors have in the past accused him of failing to be sufficiently critical to maintain access to high-profile sources. *AFP*

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Audit finds US way behind its goals of Iraq reconstruction

WASHINGTON—THE UNITED STATES HAS slumped well short of its goals in rebuilding Iraq, with production in the critical oil sector still languishing below pre-war levels, a government audit warned Thursday.

Targets have also been missed in expanding water and electricity production and a third of Pentagon projects are still to be completed, the Government Accountability Office said in a new report.

And as violence rages on, the security situation may push reconstruction goals further out of reach, the audit said.

Defense Department officials were partly to blame for delays, after making "assumptions about funding and time frames that later proved to be unfounded," the report said.

And amid continuing accusations of cronyism in the US rebuilding effort in Iraq, the report said that at times the department "did not take advantage of full and open competition during the initial stages of reconstruction." Oil production, which Bush administration officials once said would help meet vast costs of rebuilding Iraq was in August still below levels reached under Saddam Hussein.

Crude oil production was reported at about 2.4 million barrels per day, below the 2003 pre-war level of 2.6 million bpd and the desired goal of 3.0 million bpd, the report found.

Though peak electricity generation capacity, at 4,855 megawatts per day was well above pre-war levels, it was still short of a 6,000 megawatt target.

In the water sector, new or restored treatment capacity was at about 1.44 million cubic meters per day, a long way from a US goal of 2.4 million cubic meters.

Management deficiencies were a key reason for shortfalls, but the still volatile security environment also hampered reconstruction.

"The difficult security environment and persistent attacks on US funded infrastructure among other challenges, contributed to project delays, increased costs and canceling or reducing the scope of some reconstruction projects," the report said.

"The continuing violence may make it difficult for the United States to achieve its goals," the report warned, but added that it was not too late for the Defense Department to learn from its past difficulties.

Problems strike at a key pillar of the US counter-insurgency strategy in Iraq, which depends on reconstruction work to generate jobs to dissuade unemployed Iraqis from joining the insurgency.

As of the end of June, the United States had obligated more than 18.9 billion dollars for relief and reconstruction projects in Iraq and spent more than 14.8 billion dollars. *AFP*

120-YEAR-OLD GRAND LADY
The statue of Liberty is lit to show the contours of the sculpture during a special show by French champagne maker Moët & Chandon, Sept. 28, in New York, one month before the 120th anniversary of the statue. The usual floodlights were replaced for one night by special lights projecting an image of "Lady Liberty" onto the statue. AFP

House report says White House, lobbyist Abramoff had contacts

WASHINGTON—A BIPARTISAN CONGRESSIONAL report documents hundreds of contacts between White House officials and the corrupt lobbyist Jack Abramoff and his partners, including at least 10 direct contacts between Abramoff and Karl Rove, President Bush's chief political strategist.

The report by the House Government Reform Committee, based on e-mail messages and other records subpoenaed from Abramoff's lobbying firm, found 485 contacts between Abramoff's lobbying team and White House officials from 2001 to 2004, including 82 with Rove's office.

The lobbyists spent almost $25,000 in meals and drinks for the White House officials and also provided them with tickets to numerous sporting events and concerts, according to the report, scheduled for release Friday.

A White House spokesperson, Dana Perino, said Thursday that while White House officials had not seen the report, earlier evidence showed that Abramoff had exaggerated his ties to the administration and had been "ineffective in terms of getting government officials to take actions."

The report describes instances in which Abramoff, who pleaded guilty in January to conspiring to bribe public officials, failed to get the action he desired from the White House, and it described his overall record in lobbying the White House on his client's behalf as "mixed." But the report also suggests that Abramoff's lobbying resulted in Bush administration actions that benefited Abramoff clients, including decisions to distribute millions of dollars in federal funds to Indian tribes with large gambling operations.

After a lobbying campaign in 2001-02, involving 73 contacts with White House officials, Abramoff claimed credit for an administration decision to release $16.3 million to a Mississippi tribe for jail construction despite opposition from the Justice Department, the report found.

A copy of the bipartisan report was provided to The New York Times by congressional officials who were granted anonymity.

Rove has described Abramoff as a "casual acquaintance," but the records obtained by the House committee show that Rove and his aides sought Abramoff's help in obtaining seats at sporting events and sat with Abramoff in the lobbyist's box seats for an NCAA playoff basketball in 2002.

After the game, Abramoff described Rove in an e-mail message to a colleague: "He's a great guy. Told me anytime we need something just let him know through Susan." The e-mail was referring to Susan Ralston, Abramoff's former secretary, who joined the White House in 2001 as Rove's executive assistant. *New York Times*

SPORTS

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Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres**

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WHAT'S INSIDE

- **Woods caps** fiery 63 with eagle, storms ahead in WGC tourney /A27

Back-in-focus Eagles all set for title swoop

By Jasmine W. Payo

ATENEO COACH NORMAN BLACK DISMISSES talk that his Eagles may have lost ground.

If anything, he said, the delay caused by the typhoon on their title bid only sharpened the team's focus.

CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES TODAY
(Araneta Coliseum)
12 noon—UST vs FEU (Women-Game 3)
2 p.m.— Ateneo vs FEU (Jrs-Game 3)
3:30 p.m.— Awarding Ceremonies
4 p.m.— Ateneo vs UST (Srs-Game 2)

The Eagles will go for the UAAP championship today against the Santo Tomas Tigers, two days after the league moved the title match due to "Milenyo."

"We worked hard the entire year for this moment," said Black. "Our minds are focused on the next game."

Still pumped up by their almost improbable Game 1 victory, the Eagles are aiming for a sweep of the best-of-three Finals at 4 p.m. today at the Araneta Coliseum.

A perfect last-second play lifted the Eagles to a high-wire 73-72 triumph last Sunday.

And though Black was pleased with the Eagles' finish, he believes now that it will take a lot more effort to clinch the title.

"We have to do a better job individually," the multititled former PBA mentor said.

Black also cites two aspects of their game that need more work.

"We still need to tweak some improvements on our post defense," he said. "We also have to improve our rebounding. They get a lot of points from their second shots."

The main threat for the Eagles has been Jervy Cruz, the 6-foot-5 rookie center who regularly posts double-double performances for the Tigers.

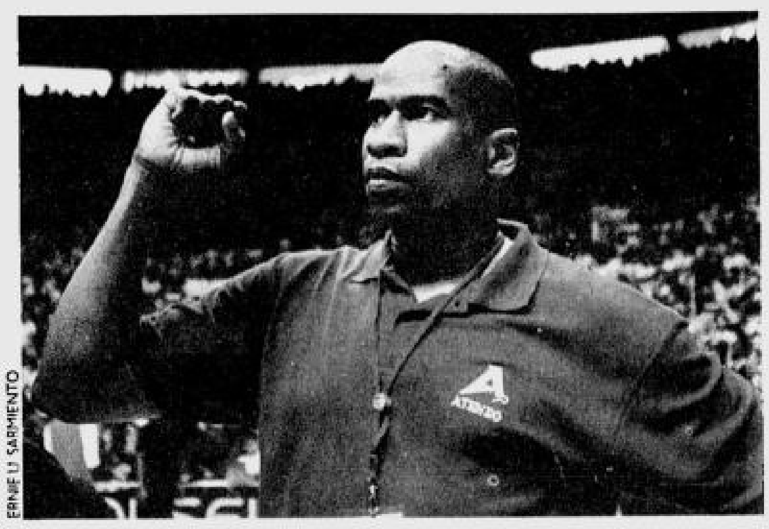
"He's like a young Alvin Patrimonio and Benjie Paras combined," said UST coach Pido Jarencio.

Cruz has been the Tigers' biggest advantage, according to Black.

"We have to limit him offensively and also his rebounding," Black said. "But I think no one has done that throughout the season."

Despite the Cruz factor, though, there has been no shortage of clutch performers for the Eagles.

That role was assumed by Doug Kramer in Game 1. With the Eagles down by a point with only a second left, Kramer received an inbound pass from Macky Escalona and scored the game-clinching under-goal stab unmolested.



ERNIE U SARMIENTO

NORMAN BLACK: "We worked hard the entire year for this moment."

That defeat may have left the Tigers nursing a painful wound, but Jarencio believes his men are ready to do battle again and extend the series to a rubber match on Monday.

"I'm still confident with my team," he said.

Away from the battle, the Eagles and the Tigers are anticipating that their main men will be rightfully honored during the awarding ceremonies at 3:30 p.m.

Ateneo's JC Intal and Adamson's Ken Bono are locked in a tight battle for the Most Valuable Player award.

UST's Cruz may not be eligible for the Rookie of the Year plum but he remains a strong contender for the Mythical Five selection.

Woody Co of University of the Philippines leads the candidates for the rookie award. Cruz sat in UST's Team B last year due to academic deficiencies.

In junior play, the Ateneo Eaglets and the Far Eastern Baby Tamaraws clash for the title in a winner-take-all Game 3 match at 2 p.m.

The UST Tigresses and the FEU Lady Tamaraws dispute the women's crown at noon.

MAIN COG: Santo Tomas coach Pido Jarencio sends in Jervy Cruz with a set of instructions in Game 1 of the UAAP Finals. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

BAP wants national congress convened

By June Navarro

STICK TO THE RULES.

The Basketball Association of the Philippines yesterday reminded the country's unified cage body to strictly follow the provisions of the joint agreement the BAP forged with Pilipinas Basketball during the Fiba congress last month in Tokyo.

While happy that Manny V. Pangilinan accepted the posts of chair and president of Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas, the BAP said that provisions in the Tokyo communiqué must first be complied with before anything else.

The convention of members of the SBP in a national congress and the election of its first set of officers should be held not later than tomorrow, according to a BAP statement.

"The BAP, together with PB, are duty-bound to strictly observe the provisions of the Tokyo joint communiqué," the BAP said.

"The communiqué calls for a three–man panel to convene the national congress of the united organization and to oversee the election of (its) officers.

"Further, the communiqué mandates the three-man panel to review,

BAP/ A26

BIGGER SUN IN LAGUNA

Sun is working hard to increase network capacity and coverage by investing ₱11 billion for more cell sites with even more capacity per cell site. That means more people can make more calls and texts while boating in Pagsanjan Falls. Now, everyone can enjoy faster connections, best-value products and services like: 24/7 Call and Text Unlimited
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SUN CELLULAR
Better network, better value

Manny can be his best manager, says Roach

WHILE OTHER SALIVATE OVER THE PROSPECT OF BECOMING THE MANAGer of Manny Pacquiao, his world-renowned trainer, Freddie Roach, believes the Filipino boxing superstar can adequately manage himself.

Roach also ruled himself out as a candidate to become Pacquiao's next manager, despite reports that the fighter—whose contract with Shelly Finkel and his management team expires on Feb. 1 next year—prefers him to handle his affairs.

"No, I am not going to be Manny's manager," Roach told Fightnews.com unequivocably. "He's going to manage himself."

Roach said he has "been pretty close to Manny" and that he will support his decision on whoever is fit for the job.

"I'm sure that if any problems come up, I will do what I can to help him," the trainer said. "Obviously, I've stuck my neck out for Manny many times with (Pacquiao's former manager) Murad Muhammad.

"So if he needs advice, he knows he can always come to me and I will steer him in the right direction."

Roach admitted that Manny has asked him to be his manager for the last five years.

"But I'm very content with just being the trainer," Roach added.

Asked about Pacquiao's recent seven-fight deal with Oscar De la Hoya's Golden Boy Promotions, Roach said the Filipino ring icon only took an offer better than the one dangled by the powerful Bob Arum of Top Rank.

"The thing is that Golden Boy just made a better offer, that's all," Roach said. "It was nothing personal. Manny and his lawyer negotiated the deal with Oscar and Richard Schaefer. And, I must say it was a very good deal."

PACQUIAO: Good negotiator

Roach also revealed that he was at the meeting between Pacquiao and De La Hoya.

"I didn't really have much to do with the negotiations because Manny is a pretty good negotiator—at least he's getting to be, with all that he's been through," Roach said. "Manny asked me what I thought about Golden Boy's offer and (Bob) Arum's offer, and all I told him was, 'Just compare the two.'"

According to Roach, aside from the better offer, "Golden Boy also has all the opponents that Manny wants to fight."

Golden Boy Promotions also promotes Marco Antonio Barrera, Jorge Barrios, and Jesus Chavez, and holds co-promotional rights over Joan Guzman and Israel Vazquez with the Sycuan Promotions. All five fighters have earlier expressed interest in facing Pacquiao. *Salven L. Lagumbay, contributor*

AN intense Tiger Woods hits a shot during the first round c
Golf Championship at The Grove, Hertfordshire.

BAP . . .

From page A25

verify and validate the list of members as submitted by the PB and BAP to the Fiba Central Board Council Commission."

A total of 66 members was submitted by the BAP and 21 by Pilipinas Basketball.

The presidents of both bodies—Joey Lina of BAP and Bernie Atienza of PB—have been nominated to the board of trustees.

Each organization also nominated 11 other representatives to the board with Pangilinan the 25th member.

The Fiba Central Board Council Commission was created to hear the Philippine case based on an agreed set of criteria for membership formulated by the panel.

Though the Fiba wants the SBP to adhere to the agreement's provisions by Sept. 30, Atienza said deadline was imposed not by the international federation but by the officials of the new basketball organization.

Atienza said the Fiba actually gave the PB and the BAP 60 days to put their act together.

DUCKING PENALTY

No choice but to send nat'l baseball team to Doha Asiad

By June Navarro

THERE'S NO TURNING BACK FOR baseball.

With the Philippine Olympic Committee ruling out the participation of softball and water polo squads in the Asian Games, baseball has become the only team sport the Philippines is still hoping send to the quadrennial enclave—and avoid punishment.

The Olympic body struck out softball due to the irreconcilable differences between two warring factions—the one headed by Jean Henri Lhuillier and Harry Angping and the other by former Pasig mayor Mario Raymundo—while water polo voluntarily begged off due to financial constraints.

Philippine Amateur Swimming Association head Mark Joseph told POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco that it would be difficult to raise funds for the water polo squad's stint in the Dec. 1-15 Games.

"Mr. Joseph has voluntarily withdrawn the team," said Ritchie Garcia, deputy chef de mission of Team Philippines.

"As for softball, we couldn't reach Mr. Angping, so we decided to remove it from the list anyway. We can't send the best team possible because half of the players are with one group while the other half supports the other."

Baseball association president Hector Navasero earlier assured Cojuangco that he would raise funds for his team's stint in the Qatar Games.

The Philippines faces disciplinary action from the Olympic Council of Asia if it fails to send at least one ball team to the Doha Asiad.

The Doha Asian Games Organizing Committee (Dagoc) has given the Philippines until tomorrow to submit the names of athletes seeing action in the Asiad. The country's Asian Games Task Force is expected to include the baseball players on the RP roster.

The task force said P90,000 would be spent on each member of the RP delegation.

SPORTSWATCH

Milo Legazpi leg postponed

THE LEGAZPI CITY ELIMINATION RUN OF THE 30TH National Milo Marathon slated tomorrow has been cancelled due to the widespread devastation left by typhoon Milenyo that hit this city last Wednesday. It will be reset to a later date, according to Milo Sports Event Executive Pat Goc-ong Goc-ong and Milo Marathon national organizer Rudy Biscocho. They were on their way to Legazpi Thursday when they received a phone call from Legazpi City Mayor Noel E. Rosal requesting for the cancellation of the event.

Hope Christian alumni golf

THE FIRST HOPE CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL ALUMni golf tournament will be held on Oct. 25 at the Tagaytay Midland Golf Club. Golf committee chair Eddie Choa said the tournament will coincide with the school's 60th anniversary celebration. Hole-in-one prizes are trips to Bangkok, Hong Kong (for two) and two 21-inch Samsung flat TV. Exciting gift items will also be raffled off during the awarding ceremonies. HCHS Alumni Association Inc. president Naty Dy and vice president Alejandro Co will formally welcome the participants. Call Eddie Choa at 0917-8330833 for pre-registration. -

Bacolod hosts poker tour

THE VIS-MIN SWING OF THE PHILIPPINE POKER Tour (PPT) qualifying tournaments makes its first stop on Oct. 21 at the Casino Filipino in Bacolod City. It will be followed by the Cebu-Lahug Challenge on Oct. 28 at the Casino Filipino-Waterfront Hotel. The Casino Filipino-Mactan will host the poker challenge on Nov. 11 and the Casino Filipino-Davao will cap the southern tour on Nov. 18. The winners of the non-wager qualifiers will advance to the grand finals of the Million-Peso Hold'em Philippine Championship on Dec. 16-17 at the Casino Filipino-Pavilion in Manila. Visit www.PhilippinePokerTour.com or call Cindy at 817-9092 or 812-0153.

Stag Festival resumes

THE DUEL OF PROVINCIAL COCKFIGHT CHAMPions resumes at the Roligon Mega Cockpit today via the second round of the Stag Festival 5-stag derby starting at 5 p.m. The Roligon management announced that all qualifiers and those who wish to field straight five stags will compete in Monday's championship round. Thirteen cockers tallied two wins each on Tuesday: Darwin Torres, Bubot Booc, Michael Faltado, Erwin Maligaya, Arnel Escarra, Reggie Nunag, Tony Jaen, Nick Ocampo, Edgar Non, RJ Spendel and Smalltime and San Juan La Union entries. Call 0915 -2147845; 0919-8207788 (Leddy).

Labanan stagfest at Solana

THE LABANAN STAG 6- STAG SERIES, A NATIONwide event backed by Sagupaan Complexor 3000 that requires no entry fee, gets going today at Solana Cockpit in Cagayan Valley. A total guaranteed prize of P800,000 awaits the winners. Other elimination rounds (3-stag) in Region 2 are lined up at Tuao Mega Cockpit, Ilagan Cockpit (Oct. 2), Vargas Cockpit (Oct. 6, 13, 18 and 21), Luna Cockpit (Oct. 9) and San Manuel Cockpit (Oct. 16). A separate Labanan 7- stag battle will be held in Metro Manila with P1.3 million up for grabs. Fights will be held at San Juan Coliseum (Oct. 9 and 16), Pasig Square Garden (Oct. 15), Pasay City Cockpit (Oct. 20) and Oct. 24 (Araneta Coliseum). For info, call 09164763030 (Ariel) or 0917 8064758 (Neil).

ACTION is fierce during the third leg competition of the 2006 Rush Interclub Smashfest.

First Rush Interclub Smashfest finals up

SIXTEEN PAIRS THAT HAVE survived the double-round eliminations will battle it out for the first Rush Interclub Smashfest title today at the Olympic Badminton Club in Libis, Quezon City.

After four legs, the top mixed doubles pairs from 16 badminton clubs all over Metro Manila will meet head on in a series of knockout, stepladder matches.

The first leg winners are composed of Jeremy Manago and Ann Mendiola of Battledore Club in Barangay Roxas, Pee Wee Elegir and Noreen Blanco of Centro Atletico in Cubao, Boboy and Jojo Reyes of Star Smash in Timog, and James Tai and Joy Tan of ACE Badminton in San Francisco del Monte.

Master Edison Yabut and Eloi Espinola of Marikina Sports Hub, Mark Mayo and Violy Alipio Don Antonio Quezon City, JV Madrid and Wowie Agustin of Olympic Badminton Court in Green Meadows Pasig, Mark August Tan and Maricris De Jesus of Greenpark Badminton Club comprise the second leg champions.

Boyet and Marose Santiago of Playground badminton courts in Las Piñas, Francis Sabio and Josephine Ragunton of Badminton Central in Makati, Roy Detoyato and Riza Valerio of Planet Badminton in Makati, Joselito Mojica and Malen Enriquez of Alabang Racket Club banner the third leg finalists. Jofer Velez and Beth Pulido of Feather 'n Strings, James Villanueva and Lisa Tribio of Club Badminton, Mark Cahulugan and Abel Nones of Blu Rackets, Marvin Cliff Yan and Lorie Gabiane of Court Zone complete the cast after nailing the fourth leg.

GUAM GAME

Bulls trample Aces

LORDY TUGADE SCORED 24 POINTS AND MICK Pennisi added 22 as Red Bull broke away late in the first period before thumping Alaska, 99-93, on Thursday as the PBA Philippine Cup came off the wraps at the University of Guam Fieldhouse in Guam.

The final score did not reflect the Bulls' domination of the match but it definitely was a rousing show for a team that finished second to idle Purefoods in this tournament last year.

Red Bull built commanding leads at the onset of the second period and forged ahead, 79-55, late in the third.

Alaska had topped the pre-season tournament by going undefeated in five games and the Aces actually returned to an arena where they won a four-team goodwill series in 1994.

Nic Belasco gave Alaska its last taste of the lead, 12-10, with back-to-back baskets early in the first before the Bulls countered with a 15-6 spurt to t control for good.

Willie Miller scored 23 points and had four st to lead the Aces, while Junthy Valenzuela and I Alvarez finished with 14 and 12, respectively, Red Bull.

The 32nd season's elaborate opening ce monies open at 4 p.m. tomorrow at the Ara Coliseum before the tip-off for the lone game p ting crowd-darling Barangay Ginebra and ne comer Welcoat at 6.

The scores:

RED BULL 99—Tugade 24, Pennisi 17, Valenzuela 14, A 12, Villanueva 9, Fonacier 7, Bugia 5, Baguio 5, Robinson 4 jorda 2, Hrabak 0, Cruz 0.

ALASKA 93—Miller 23, Dela Cruz 22, Cariaso 13, Belas Laure 9, Cortez 7, Ferriols 6, Juinio 3, Luanzon 0, Thoss 0.

Quarters: 25-18; 53-33; 80-61; 99-93 *Musong R. Castillo*

Don Exequiel leads local bets

By Musong R. Castillo

TRIPLE CROWN LEG WINNER DON EXEQUIEL carries the fight for the locals against four topnotch imported gallopers on Oct. 15, in the fifth running of the Klub Don Juan de Manila Derby at the San Lazaro Leisure Park in Carmona.

There will actually be four major stakes races that Sunday counting the juvenile championships and the Golden Girls stakes where Wild Orchid, the Derby winner last year, is expected to see action.

The derby is a P2 million race spread over the back-breaking distance of 2,000 meters and confined to horses born in 2003.

Manila's Gem, Manhattan, Gun Dam and Rebecca's Magic are the other local entries in the d which will hand out a cool P1.150 million to the champion and P430,000 to the second placer.

Imports Hear Me, Fairy Queen, Big Deb and formidable stayer Leave No Doubt round out the nine-horse cast. The riders will be declared tomorrow at the SLLP.

Like the other stakes races scheduled, the c is open to all imported and locally bred h making it the virtual all-comers' championshi the year.

Don Exequiel, the handsome chestnut wh ished first, fourth and second in the three TC will be going into the race the winner of hi four starts.

Tee, Canare rule World Cup national finals

SOUTHEAST ASIAN GAMES masters gold medalist Markwin Tee and veteran Jojo Canare scored contrasting victories to rule the 2006 Bowling World Cup national finals Thursday at SM Megamall Center along Edsa.

The 22-year-old Tee, who bowled over Southeast Asia's best pintopplers in last year's SEAG here, needed three games to spoil the comeback bid of Busan Asian Games doubles gold medalist RJ Bautista in the exciting men's finals.

Tee nipped Bautista, 224-223, in Game 1, lost 198-237 in Game 2 and then prevailed 235-214 in Game 3.

"This is a big victory for me, the second big one after my gold medal in the SEA Games," said Tee.

Canare, fresh from her victory in the Hong Kong leg of the Asian Bowling Federation tour, whipped Jaymee Bautista, 2-0 (193-185 and 215-185), in the ladies' finals.

As national champions, Tee and Canare earned the right to carry the Philippine colors in the Qubica-AMF Bowling World Cup international finals on Nov. 4-10 in Caracas, Venezuela.

It's the first BWC international finals outing for Tee and the third for Canare, who came in 12th in Latvia in 2002 and third in Honduras in 2003.

"I know it's going to be tough, but I'll just continue training and give the World Cup finals my best shot,'" said Tee, a member of the Doha Asian Games bound national team together with Canare.

Tee ousted Joonee Gatchalian, 2-1 (224-196, 191-235 and 225-201), in the quarterfinals and then whipped former World Cup champions CJ Suarez, 2-0 (193-163 and 232-204), in the semis.

Bautista hurdled Busan co-doubles champ and four-time World Cup champion Paeng Nepomuceno, 2-0 (189-180 and 213-207), in the quarters and Raoul Miranda, 2-0 (226-207 and 226-220), in the semis to earn a shot at Tee.

PUYAT Sports managing director Pinky Puyat-Nepomuceno presents the World Cup trophy to ladies' champion Jojo Canare. At right is men's titlist Markwin Tee.

Woods caps fiery 63 with eagle, storms ahead in WGC tourney

WATFORD, ENGLAND—TIGER WOODS IMposed himself on the WGC American Express Championship first round on Thursday with a blistering front nine and an eagle finish to end the day a shot ahead of the field.

Woods, seeking his fifth win since the event was inaugurated in 1999, stormed out in just 29 shots and then holed from 20 feet on the last for an eight-under round of 63.

His grandstand finish hauled him past Irishman Padraig Harrington and Britain's Ian Poulter, who share second spot with 64s.

The world number one had looked imperious as he plundered six birdies going out but made a mistake on the 17th by overshooting the green with his approach, causing his only dropped shot.

Typically, though, he hit straight back, hitting what he felt was his "shot of the day," a three-wood approach under the wind to hit the 18th green and retake the lead.

Fellow American Stewart Cink said earlier that the course was so set up for Woods' game it should be named after him, the defending champion had other theories for his good score.

"I hit the ball really well but when the greens are this good, if you hit good putts they're going in. I made a couple of putts, got things rolling and got the momentum on my side. When greens are slow I struggle and I always feel more comfortable on fast greens," he said.

"There are always courses you feel more comfortable on. One of the first times I played St. Andrews I fell in love with the place.

"I can see shots here, feel comfortable shaping the golf ball. Love it? A couple more 63s..."

After America's drubbing last weekend in the Ryder Cup, Woods refuted the suggestion he was more comfortable being back to strokeplay, saying: "I'm only in control of five points and I got three," of his contribution, the best of anyone on the American team.

"I could have holed more putts but I only played badly once, on Saturday morning."

Harrington admitted he had not had the best of Ryder Cups—he managed only half a point from five games and was Europe's lowest scorer —and based his unblemished 64 on his recent second and fourth places on the European Tour.

Poulter collected nine birdies but bogeyed twice. The Englishman who was devastated at not making the K Club match, continued his good form, following up on his win in the Madrid Open the week before the Ryder Cup.

Cink, after collecting seven birdies with one dropped shot, said his Ryder Cup singles performance in beating Sergio Garcia, who had won all four of his pairs matches, had sent him to the Grove on a high.

The 2004 winner of the event, Ernie Els, shares fourth place with Cink at 65. *Reuters*

f the American Express World

AP

'Milenyo' stops training of RP swimmers, divers

By Marc Anthony Reyes

NATIONAL SWIMMERS, DIVERS AND WAter polo players training for the Asian Games weren't spared from the fury of Typhoon Milenyo which brought waist-deep floods to Los Baños, Laguna, ravaging their training venue, Trace College Aquatics Center, swimming officials reported yesterday.

Members of the national team, which just came back from training in China, will be transferred to the PhilSports in Pasig City to continue their training for at least three more weeks in order not to disrupt their Asiad preparations, said Philippine Amateur Swimming Association president Mark Joseph.

The floods polluted the three pools inside the Trace College, site of the 2005 Southeast Asian Games, and it would take weeks, according to Joseph, to clean them all up and repair the damage inside the newly built facility.

"All is well but our national athletes, especially those on scholarships at Trace College, are worried about missing school work," said Joseph of the athletes who will be relocated.

"The divers can't miss a beat in their training before the Asiad where they will come up against the world's best divers from China," he added.

The divers, led by SEAG most outstanding female athlete Shiela Mae Perez, are being counted upon to deliver in the Asiad aquatics events, having placed second to their Chinese counterparts during the last World Championships.

The Rizal Memorial Sports Complex itself sustained damages because of the typhoon, with could cost at least P3 million to repair, according to PSC officials.

Meanwhile, the Pasa also sounded an alarm that excluding the water polo team from the Asiad roster will open the country to disciplinary actions.

Quoting the Olympic Council of Asia vice president Cito Dayrit, Joseph said sending team sports to the Asiad despite budget constraints is "a wise investment for the 2007 SEA Games" considering most team sports are defending SEAG champions.

CHAMP: Roxanne Dominique "Tana" Puno performs on the way to six gold and three silver medals in the recent Skate Asia 2006 championships in Shenzhen, China.

Tagaytay Highlands ladies hit back

JUST ONE MIGHTY PERFORmance and Tagaytay Highlands is back in the WGAP Cup hunt.

Virtually unheard of the last five legs, the Tagaytay ladies came through with a three-division sweep in the sixth leg of the Women's Golf Association of the Philippines Circuit it hosted recently to enhance its chances of making the WGAP Cup yearender.

Exploiting their familiarity with the Midlands layout, one of the two courses they call home, the Tagaytay ladies ruled Class A by five points, took Class B also by five and roared to a 10-point victory in Class C.

The big splurge was worth 10 points, enabling Tagaytay to spring out of nowhere and take fifth place in the WGAP Cup standings. Tagaytay now has 12 points going into the penultimate leg tomorrow at the Canlubang north and south courses.

Alabang shows the way in the WGAP Cup race with 22 points, two up on Southwoods. Sta. Elena is third with 16 and Forest Hills fourth with 13.

Winning the individual titles were Claire Ong of Southwoods in Class A, Berna Jalosjos of Riviera in Class B and Myra Robles of Southwoods in Class C.

Winning the Class A plum for Tagaytay were sisters Linnel and Debbie de Villa who had 41 and 38 points, respectively, Hedy See (36) and Veronica Veloso (35).

The Class B team of Mely Leyesa (39), Rosalie Heo (37), Princess Katigbak (36) and Marissa Vergara (34) won it for Tagaytay, while its Class C squad—made up of Dionne Cu (37), Bernadette Wong (36), Erlinda Gamut (36) and Rosalind Wee (32)—outplayed the opposition in style.

Student Advertising Congress

By the Youth, For the Youth (BY4Y)

Student Ad Congress rocks LYCEUM

No amount of rain could dampen the rapidly building momentum of the First Student Advertising Congress' (SAC) campus tour held at the Lyceum of the Philippines University (LPU) last Sept. 22.

In spite of the intermittent drizzles, students from different colleges and universities in and outside Metro Manila, including De La Salle University, Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila, Bulacan State University, St. Paul University Manila and Quezon City, Colegio de San Juan de Letran, University of the East–Caloocan, Polytechnic University of the Philippines, Universidad de Manila, Adamson University, University of Santo Tomas, and Mapua Institute of Technology flocked to the LPU with enthusiasm to participate in the second leg of the tour. Ronald Allen Esguerra, SAC project director, said that the event is meant to build the momentum, coming from the kick-off at FEU last Aug. 18.

After a warm welcome from the Dean of College of Arts and Sciences Rizalina Cruz, the crowd was sent laughing with the antics of LPU's Tanghalang Batingaw. Magic 89.9's Slick Rick and MaxSpeed, and Abigael Vasquez of LPU hosted the event. One of Globe's Kantabataan's winning bands, JYLZ, treated the audience with a mix of for-the-youth original compositions and rocked-out renditions.

"Your works, ladies and gentlemen, are powerful, riveting, arresting, and…stirs your souls," said SAC Chairman, Dan T. Villa, and showed winning advocacy campaigns, and student-made television advertisements from the Catholic Mass Media Awards. "It is in this spirit that we are launching the First Student Advertising Congress". SAC's major sponsors Philippine Daily Inquirer (PDI) and Globe Telecommunications provided the creative briefs, criteria and specific requirements for the advertising campaign competition. PDI's Ged Ventura and Globe's Michael Aldrich Wage encouraged the students to participate in the competition. PDI's creative brief requires the ad campaign entries to include the readership advocacy campaign, with the objective of increasing subscription by including the premiums and free issues that go with the newspaper. Globe's creative brief, on the other hand, requires the ad campaign to promote their G blogs by actually showing the youth using blogs to express their concerns about social issues.

Highlighting the event were smashing performances by 6 Cycle Mind, Mano Mano, Cracons, Calla Lily, and Lyceum's Denial of Senses with the Lyceum Chorale.

Even if the weather went against everyone's desire of staying high and dry, the second leg of the First Student Advertising Congress proved to be stronger than the forces of nature.

Reports by:
Edelrita C. Rizo
Patricia Kate O. Lazaro
Photos by:
Brandy Mae L. Coco
Charisma Marie A. Felix
Patricia Kate O. Lazaro
Lay-out and design by:
Josef Karlo B. Servanez
Charisma Marie A. Felix

"LET YOUR CREATIVE JUICES FLOW." says SAC Chair, Dan T. Villa.

DITO KA. SALI KA! Ronald Esguerra, SAC project director, calls the crowd to join SAC.

MANY THANKS! Sarita Zafra, SAC Exclusive Marketing Arm thanked their sponsors.

WELCOME! Dean Rizalina Cruz, College of Arts and Sciences, welcomes guests and visitors.

TAP YOUR TALENTS! Ged Ventura of the PDI and Michael Aldrich Wage of Globe presented the Creative Briefs.

LA PRESIDENTA. Patricia Bunda, LYCAJS president, gives a warm welcome

THREE HEADS ARE BETTER THAN ONE. Slick Rick, Abigael, and MaxSpeed welcomed the crowd.

SIGN UP HERE. A student signs up for the SAC as a delegate.

MAKING NEW FRIENDS. A Lycean and a Paulinian beam a smile.

PUMP UP THE VOLUME! JYLZ, Manomano, Calla Lily, Cracons, and 6 Cyclemind drove the crowd wild with explosive acts.

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Miss World
56th MISS WORLD
Si Anna Maris Igpit na kaya ang kauna-unahang mag-uuwi ng Miss World crown?
Telecast Live from Warsaw, Poland
Linggo 8:00am

Shall We Dance?
The Celebrity Dance Challenge
Palaban ang sagot nina Ethel Booba, Alex Crisano at Archie Alemania sa kontrobersyal na results last week!
Linggo 9:30pm

Mas mabangis na Gin Kings, lalabanan ng bagong Dragons ng PBA!
Ginebra vs Welcoat
Linggo 6pm
Opening Ceremonies
Linggo 4pm

PBA ON ABC
Iba tayo.

SABADO AT LINGGO, SA ABC NA TAYO!

Alcano hot, stays clean in US Open

FORMER AZBILLIARDS ROOKIE OF THE Year Ronato Alcano continues to pummel the opposition in the 2006 US Open 9-Ball championships.

ALCANO

The 34-year-old pride of Calamba, Laguna, whipped Joey Testa, 11-4, Thursday to post his fourth straight win and boost his bid for the top $40,000 purse at the Chesapeake Conference Center in Chesapeake, Virginia.

Rodolfo "Boy Samson" Luat also stayed unbeaten by thwarting Frankie Hernandez, 11-6.

Luat next faces Darren Appleton, an 11-6 victor over Jason Klatt, also in the fifth round.

US-based Jose "Amang" Parica took a 7-11 loss at the hands of Derek Leonard in the loser's bracket to formally bow out.

Antonio Gabica and Gandy Valle of Davao City remained in the title hunt by whipping their respective rivals in the loser's bracket.

Gabica trounced Nick Vita, 11-9, while Valle routed Evan Broxmeyer, 11-2.

Gabica and Valle will meet Chris Bartram and Rodney Morris, respectively.

Japan-based Ramil Gallego and Ramon Mistica, however, dropped their matches and joined defending champion Alex Pagulayan and Canada-based Edwin Montal at the exits.

Gallego yielded to Jayson Shaw, 9-11, while Mistica bowed to Chris Szuter, 8-11.

Two other Filipinos—Lee Van Corteza and Santos Sambajon—also slid to the loser's bracket. Corteza yielded to Mika Immonen of Finland, 8-11, while Sambajon bowed to American Charles Altomare, 10-11.

"Ronnie (Alcano) is in top form," said his benefactor Perry Mariano of Bugsy's promotion. "Let's pray for him and the other Filipino pool campaigners." *Marlon Bernardino, contributor*

Orcollo joins World Pool

DENNIS ORCOLLO, OF PHILIPPINE POOL, AIMS for international acclaim in the 2006 World Pool League in Warsaw, Poland.

The 27-year-old Orcollo, acknowledged as RP money game king, has won many titles but he wants a legitimate title affixed on his name.

"I really hope to top the World Pool League," Orcollo said in Filipino before he left the country Wednesday for the by-invitation only tourney. "It's really my dream to be a world champion."

This year alone, Orcollo has copped seven titles in the United States. A third place finish in the 2006 North American International Pool Tour (IPT) 8-ball shoot-out in Las Vegas, Nevada, earned him $85,000—his biggest paycheck so far. *Marlon Bernardino*

IPT World Open on RPN 9

SPORTS FANS ARE IN FOR A TREAT AS RPN 9 AIRS the IPT World Open 8-Ball starting 10:30 p.m. on Tuesday. It is presented by San Miguel Beer. Philippine pool patron Aristeo "Putch" Puyat acquired the rights in order to please the fans who have clamored to see Efren "Bata" Reyes' triumph. Reyes won a cool $500,000 (P25 million) in beating American and former US Open Champion Rodney Morris, 8-6, in the finals. ***Marlon Bernardino, contributor***

Gerald 4 shots off

TAIPEI—INDIA'S RAHIL GANGJEE SNATCHED the second round lead at the $500,000 Mercuries Taiwan Masters on a day when compatriot and overnight leader S.S.P Chowrasia was disqualified for not signing his scorecard.

Gangjee shot a two-under-par 70 for a two-day total of 136 at the Taiwan Golf and Country Club.

The Philippines' Gerald Rosales fired a second straight 70 to tie for sixth spot along with Taiwan's Hong Chia-yuh (67) and Gavin Flint of Australia (70) with 140 totals.

Angelo Que also made it to the weekend after shooting a 74 for 146 even as Juvic Pagunsan failed to advance after carding a 76 for 148.

UST lady jins head winners

UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS' LADY jins carted away the gold medals in six of seven weight classes to rule the senior women's advance competition in the recent Petron national inter-school taekwondo championships at the Rizal Memorial coliseum.

The winning UST bets were flyweight Sarah Arellano, bantam Esther Marie Singson, feather Kathleen Valenzuela, lightweight Rainee Rose Arca, welter Camille Manalo and middle/heavy Catherine Bunyi.

UST, which beat RTU in senior women's advance, also emerged No. 1 in the junior men's advance and mid-junior men's advance competition.

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A new record has been set on just one full tank of Petron Xtra Unleaded.

Tender offer raises Sy stake in EPCIB to 85.6%

SSS joins GSIS in selling bank stake to SM Investments

By Doris C. Dumlao and Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE SM GROUP OF MALL TYCOON HENRY SY IS ALL SET to control 85.6 percent of Equitable PCIBank after the Social Security System pledged to sell its stake in the country's third biggest lender.

As the tender offer to buy out EPCIB shareholders ended yesterday, SM Investments Corp. announced it had generated commitments from other shareholders to sell 51.6 percent in additional stake in EPCIBank, including the 25.84-percent stake held by the SSS.

The result of the tender offer will bring the SM group's equity interest in EPCIBank to 85.6 percent from 34 percent, or well above the 67-percent minimum required by corporate laws to vote on a merger with Banco de Oro Universal Bank.

The purchase of an additional 51.6-

TENDER/ B2

IN THIS ISSUE

Peso seen to hit 49.6:$1 in 6 months /B2

RP debt burden eased to $53.9B in June /B6

Choose project partners wisely, Malaysians told

By Daxim L. Lucas

(Conclusion)

THAT SKEPTICISM TOWARD MALAYSIAN investors is high in the country comes as no surprise to Jose T. Pardo.

Having headed the departments of trade and industry and of finance during the Estrada administration, he is familiar with many of their best—and worst—business practices.

"When it's a Malaysian firm involved, people can't help but raise their eyebrows sometimes," he said in a telephone interview.

Pardo explained that this skepticism toward Malaysian firms was formed during the boom years of the 1990s when the government threw open its doors to foreign investors, especially in the area of privatization.

The confluence of the Malaysian government's policies to push local firms to seek investment opportunities abroad, often with the help of cheap loans, aggravated the situation.

"They had lots of money and they viewed the Philippines as one of those countries where they can get good returns," he said.

More importantly, however, Pardo pointed to the perception that large Malaysian firms have similar business practices as their local counterparts, that is, with most requiring the blessings and backing of senior officials in government to undertake major investments or projects.

Like some local businesses, Pardo noted that some Malaysian firms may be guilty of relying too much on connections with high-ranking state officials to get things done.

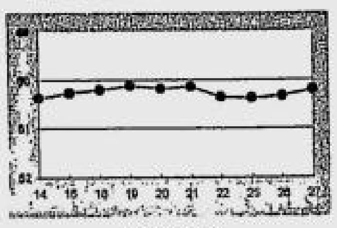
Given this, little attention is paid to conducting proper due diligence on their respective local partners or even on the actual business proposition itself.

Pardo recalled that the negative perception reached a point where he had to smoothen

CHOOSE/ B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



SEPTEMBER

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 50.21 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Sept. 27, 2006

¥ 118.04 = $1

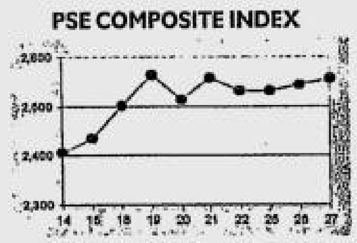
As of 5 p.m., Sept. 29, 2006

GOLD: $602.20-602.70

per ounce Hong Kong, Sept. 29, 2006

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Markets closed after typhoon

FINANCIAL MARKETS AS WELL AS GOVernment offices and schools in Metro Manila were closed for a second day yesterday as relief and cleanup operation got under way in the wake of a powerful typhoon.

Financial markets, schools and offices were shut Thursday as Typhoon Milenyo hit Luzon, killing at least 10 people and causing widespread damage.

It was the third time this year that bad weather closed currency trading and stock markets. *AP*

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Peso seen to hit 49.6:$1 in 6 mos

Analysts mark strength of other Asian currencies

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PESO IS LIKELY TO FIRM up at the 49-level against the US dollar over the next 6 to 15 months following the appreciation of most other Asian currencies, European investment bank Calyon said.

In its September market research, the unit of France's leading bank Credit Agricole Group said Asian currencies would further strengthen in the coming months, notwithstanding the expected softening of the global economy.

Calyon projected that the peso would remain at the 50:$1 level for the remainder of the year, but would break into 49.6:$1 in six months, and 49.30 in nine months.

The local currency is afterwards seen to trade near the next barrier of 49:$1 over the next 12 to 15 months.

But Calyon said that despite the expected foreign exchange appreciation across Asia, the backdrop would become more challenging with the US economy decelerating faster than initially expected.

"Additionally, with China adding up more measures to slow domestic investment, global demand may head towards more deceleration in coming months," Calyon said.

"Secondly, the Japanese yen has been more reluctant than expected to appreciate against the US dollar and our forecast for further rise in JPY interest rates has been postponed to early next year, after inflation has been revised downward," Calyon said.

Although its forecasts were significantly revised downward, the French bank still expected the Japanese yen to surge from 115 to 107 against the US dollar over the next 15 months and the Chinese renminbi from 7.9 to 7.4 over the same period.

Calyon said inflation was also expected to moderate in Asia in the coming months as oil prices appeared to have steadied after four years of consistent rise.

But despite these challenges, Calyon said it was bullish on most Asian currencies because of the following:

- US GDP growth will likely re-accelerate and thus revive the pick-up in Asian exports; and
- The moderation of oil prices should support most countries' trade positions, as the region is a huge net importer of oil.

For this year, Calyon expects the Philippine domestic economy to grow by 5.4 percent but slow down to 4.5 percent next year.

Inflation is also seen to taper off to 6.6 percent this year and further to 3.5 percent next year.

Peninsula Hotels, NEC blaze VoIP trail

By Riza T. Olchondra

NEC CORP., ONE OF THE world's leading providers of Internet, broadband network and enterprise business solutions, and The Peninsula Hotels have unveiled an Internet-backed voice and data network—something no other hotel chain can claim to have.

The network was built on NEC's IP-PBX, a private branch exchange (PBX) system which uses Internet protocol (IP) to manage voice calls and data services both through the hotel chains' private network and through the Intranet, which is accessed by the public worldwide.

The move is expected to provide huge savings and boost efficiency between The Peninsula Hotels' 14 branches and offices in Hong Kong, Manila, Bangkok, Beijing, New York, Chicago and Beverly Hills.

For starters, communications among employees would be improved with standardized telephone numbering for all locations and assignment of individual phone numbers to each employee.

The system also provides caller number display even for overseas calls and supports a centralized call center in Hong Kong that manages calls from worldwide hotel operators, 24/7.

"The Peninsula Hotels has been working to curb the cost of international calls since communication among its hotels worldwide has become more frequent as a result of global expansion," said Shane Izaks, general manager for information technology of The Hong Kong and Shanghai Hotels Ltd., which owns and operates the hotel chain.

"The new network system was built in response to this, and it will expand along with the establishment of new hotels."

This implementation of VoIP network for The Peninsula Hotels has shown that NEC's broadband solutions for the hospitality industry is very attractive to industry players, especially in Japan and Asia Pacific, said a statement from Kazuo Tsuzuki, associate senior vice president of NEC.

More traders drawn to risky investments

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

INVESTOR APPETITE FOR RISKY investments has been increasing, as shown by more stock-related deals this year, UBS Investment Bank yesterday said in a briefing.

UBS AG chief representative Lauro Baja III said equity deals handled by UBS this year for a number of blue chip firms raised approximately $765 million for the firms compared with roughly $290 million last year, reflecting investors' optimism on stronger signs of economic health.

UBS, which was awarded the best investment house for 2006 by FinanceAsia.Com, handled capital raising activities on behalf of the following firms this year: First Generation Corp.'s initial public offer ($180 million), Universal Robina Corp.'s additional share offer to increase its public float ($240 million), Megaworld Corp.'s additional share offer ($122 million) and Robinsons Land Corp.'s stock offer ($223 million).

Last year, UBS handled two major equity deals, Manila Water Corp.'s initial public offering ($90 million) and the exchange of bonds for First Pacific Co. into shares of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. ($200 million).

"Investors have been riding on good momentum from the Philippines' macroeconomic story," said Robrina Go, UBS Securities Philippines Inc. country head and head of equities.

Based on its recent equity deal for RLC, Baja said close to 60 institutional investors bought up RLC's shares, with the bulk coming from the United States and Asia.

"Investors liked RLC because of the bullish sentiment on the country," Baja said. "Everyone liked the fact that overseas Filipino workers continue to provide a source of comfort for the economy. From the business process outsourcing angle, they like that the growth is spectacular and that we are providing a good alternative to India."

Then there's "the property boom," she said.

Demand for RLC reached nearly $450 million, or over 2.4 times oversubscribed. RLC's $223 million proceeds from its offering will be used to fund the construction of new malls, develop existing malls, buy land for use by its commercial centers division, build residential buildings, purchase land for development, to fund its housing subdivision projects, and refurbish existing hotels and build new hotels.

From January to August, publicly-listed companies raised P31.5 billion in fresh capital through IPOs of stock, sales of additional shares, and stock rights offering, Philippine Stock Exchange data showed.

Innove ends telco's 10-year hold on Subic

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT ZONE—The recent entry here of Globe Telecom Inc. and its subsidiary, Innove Communications Inc., ended the decade-long hold of Subic Telecommunications Company Inc. (SubicTel) at the freeport.

The National Telecommunications Commission gave Innove a franchise to operate nationwide last year and the firm has since been expanding its network throughout the country, including Subic.

On Feb. 17 this year, the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority granted Innove a provisional authority to operate a local exchange telephone service and international and domestic leased line services inside the freeport.

SBMA Administrator Armand Arreza said Innove is the sixth largest company that has invested in the freeport in the first half of 2006, with committed investments of $6.3 million (P317.64 million).

SubicTel, which started operating here in 1994, earlier filed a petition with a local court to stop the entry of Innove into Subic.

But Judge Ramon Caguioa of the regional trial court dismissed the case on June 30 this year on the ground of forum shopping. SubicTel filed a motion for reconsideration but the court denied it on Aug. 24. *Ansbert Joaquin, with reports from Allan Macatuno, Inquirer Central Luzon*

Choose partners wisely ...

From page B1

things out with his Malaysian counterpart, Trade Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz.

"I told her that she should remind Malaysian companies to choose their local partners wisely," he said. "They should really invest in due diligence."

Even if the most illustrious corporate names in Malaysia are involved in the project, their choice of a local partner or broker can make or break the deal, the former trade and finance secretary said.

At the same time, Pardo also reminded Filipino businessmen to be more selective in partnering with Malaysian firms, especially where big-ticket projects are involved.

For some observers, however, the difficulties experienced by Malaysian firms in the Philippine business scene could be traced to deeper causes than just sloppy due diligence.

"I think it may be more cultural," Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) president Reynaldo G. David said. "We are both Malays, and I think there is some degree of mutual distrust [between both nationalities]."

In his line of work, David deals with many Malaysian investors, many of whose local partners approach his bank for funding assistance.

"Resistance is higher because it is like looking at a mirror," he explained. "We know what [the Malaysians] are like because they are a reflection of us."

David said many government officials instinctively become more cautious when sitting across the table from Malaysian businessmen.

"If it were a non-Malaysian involved, would they think this way?" he asked. "I don't think so."

As such, government officials and regulators tend to do more due diligence to ensure that the potential investor is not out to make a quick buck at the expense of taxpayers.

It is precisely this situation which MTD Capital group managing director Dato Azmil Khalid is complaining about.

The firm is the principal partner in South Luzon Tollway Corp. (SLTC), which won the right to rehabilitate the Alabang Viaduct and the South Luzon Expressway (SLEX) from Muntinlupa City to Calamba, Laguna, and operate it for 30 years.

It is being criticized by lawmakers for allegedly being delayed and for failing to come up with a viable traffic management plan. Some groups are also wary of the toll that SLTC will charge motorists once the P8.3-billion project is completed. Only recently, the House of Representatives investigated various aspects of the project, pointing to supposed deficiencies in the scheme.

Azmil said that MTD Capital even had to put up a $2.5-million deposit in an escrow account just to gain the right to talk to officials of Philippine National Construction Corp. (PNCC) when they first showed interest in the project.

"Imagine the audacity!" he said. "We had to deposit the money before we could talk."

During the negotiation phase, Azmil recalled speaking with then Trade Secretary Juan Santos and Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri who kept asking for MTD's credentials and wondering whether the group—capitalized at more than $700 million—had the financial muscle and expertise to finish the project.

"Frankly, I was livid!" said Azmil, who effectively runs a big business group with four units listed on the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange.

"They said they were already suffering from 'assurance fatigue'," he added.

Azmil conceded that he thought, at a certain point, hat his firm was being given a difficult time because it refused to play the game that its Malaysian predecessors have played in the past—that of playing the local political game and getting a powerful backer or broker.

"To say that I did not think of it, I would be lying to you," he said during the interview.

For seasoned observers like Pardo and David, however, the travails of Malaysian firms like MTD hoping to do business locally comes as no surprise, given their "sins of the past."

"The bottom line is choose your partners carefully," said David. "And invest in due diligence," Pardo added. "The project has to make business sense, and not just because they have connections."

Tender ...

From page B1

percent block, equivalent to 374.9 million shares, will cost the SM group about P34.49 billion, SMIC said.

In an interview, SMIC investor relations officer Cora Guidote explained that while the SSS had also agreed to sell, this would be contingent on the resolution of a pending court case relating to the disposition of the shares.

"We won't have the SSS' voting shares yet. It's basically an agreement to sell, once the court resolution is obtained," Guidote said.

The SSS had long wanted to resolve the question on whether it was required to always bid assets in its investment portfolio or if it was allowed to enter into negotiated deals when the opportunity arose. It had entered into an agreement to sell its stake to the SM group but this was foiled by protests over its disposition mode.

The other day, state-owned pension fund Government Service Insurance System agreed to sell its 13.55-percent stake to the SM group.

The SM group is also set to buy the 10.8-percent stake in EPCIB owned by EBC Investments Inc. at the same price as the tender offer.

On top of these big voting blocks, retail shareholders tendered shares equivalent to 1.34 percent of EPCIB.

The SM group intends to pay 10 percent of the total price on Oct. 2, another 10 percent on June 2, 2007, another 10 percent on Feb. 2, 2008, and the remaining 70 percent on Oct. 2, 2008.

SMIC is also studying a number of options such as a bond float and the issuance of new shares to raise fresh funds for the acquisition.

If computed against net present value, the SM group's offer is worth about P80 a share based on an assumed two-year bond yield of 8 percent.

The latest offer topped earlier proposals submitted by the SM group. An earlier deal between the SSS and the SM group in December 2004—which remains pending due to legal obstacles—valued EPCIB at only P43.50 a share.

A merger between EPCIB and BDO will create the country's second biggest banking group with combined assets of P528.6 billion (excluding China Banking Corp.), next to Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.'s consolidated assets of P594 billion.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of September 27, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.5	5.7	5.4	5.7	87,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	38.5	40	38.5	40	951,400
Bank of the Phil. Islands	59	59	58.5	58.5	1,993,200
China Banking Corp.	690	690	685	685	2,320
Citystate Savings Bank	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	400
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.42	0.42	0.4	0.4	15,030,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	75.5	76	75	75.5	6,122,200
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	40.5	41	40	41	514,600
Philippine National Bank	33.5	33.5	33	33	7,700
Phil. Savings Bank	43	43	43	43	2,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	18	18.25	18	18.25	20,500
Security Bank Corp.	51.5	51.5	51	51.5	200,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	44.5	45	44.5	45	12,400
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Bankard Inc.	0.64	0.64	0.64	0.64	10,000
Citiseconline.Com Inc.	3.75	3.8	3.75	3.8	232,000
First Abacus Financial	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	50,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	30.5	30.5	30.5	30.5	10,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1635	1635	1610	1610	380
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.04	1.1	1.04	1.08	1,450,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2080	2085	2065	2085	1,280
Ivantage Corp.	1.38	1.4	1.38	1.4	865,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	49	49	49	49	765,400
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	49.5	50	49.5	50	2,003,300
Manila Electric Co. A	19.25	19.25	19.25	19.25	67,200
Manila Electric Co. B	29.5	29.5	29	29.5	464,600
Manila Water Co. Inc.	9.1	9.1	9	9	636,000
Petron Corp.	4.15	4.2	4.1	4.15	3,021,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	350,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.1	3.2	3.1	3.2	12,000
CADP Group Corp.	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	1,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	23	23	22.5	22.75	84,200
Jollibee Foods Corp.	35	36	35	35.5	161,200
Pancake House Inc.	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	9,000
RFM Corp.	0.87	0.9	0.87	0.89	920,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	51,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.22	0.24	0.22	0.24	130,000
San Miguel Corp. A	65	65	64.5	65	55,100
San Miguel Corp. B	74.5	76	74.5	76	165,100
Universal Robina Corp.	18	18.25	18	18	18,218,600
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.29	1,000,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.78	1.82	1.78	1.82	2,495,000
Holcim Philippines, Inc.	5	5	4.9	4.9	637,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	18,000
Republic Cement Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	26,000
CHEMICALS					
Corro-Coat Inc.	4	4.2	3.9	4.05	3,492,000
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	10,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.59	0.61	0.58	0.59	141,200,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.145	0.15	0.145	0.145	5,980,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Asia Amalgamated Holdings	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	250,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0075	0.0075	0.007	0.007	47,000,000
Ayala Corp.	475	477.5	472.5	475	267,730
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	100,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5.2	5.3	5.2	5.2	295,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.027	0.027	0.026	0.026	22,300,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2	2.04	2	2.04	2,233,000
APC Group Inc.	0.245	0.245	0.24	0.24	590,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	12,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.92	0.93	0.92	0.93	650,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	3.3	3.35	3.15	3.15	242,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	1.08	1.08	1.06	1.08	120,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.26	1.28	1.26	1.28	8,999,000
DMCI Holdings Inc	3.75	3.8	3.75	3.75	3,863,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	2.8	2.8	2.65	2.65	2,144,000
House of Investments Inc.	1.28	1.36	1.28	1.32	2,109,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	6.1	6.1	5.9	6	2,820,000
Keppel Holdings	1	1	1	1	30,000
Medco Holdings	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	100,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	1.24	1.26	1.22	1.22	1,562,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	10,800,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.185	0.19	0.18	0.19	2,060,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.59	0.59	800,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	1,700,000
SM Investments Corp.	248	250	247	250	329,300
South China Resources Inc.	0.94	0.98	0.93	0.98	520,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	300,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	50,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	14.75	14.75	14.25	14.25	15,348,000
Belle Corp.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	5,493,000
A Brown Co. Inc.	1	1.02	0.99	1.02	500,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	200,000
C&P Homes Inc.	1.2	1.48	1.2	1.48	50,000
Cebu Prop. Vent. A	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	200,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	6,300,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	500,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.51	0.55	0.51	0.54	53,280,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	0.98	1.1	0.98	1.06	1,360,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.56	1.64	1.56	1.64	48,786,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	10,000
Gotesco Land Inc. B	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	100,000
Highlands Prime Inc	2.28	2.28	2.26	2.26	40,000
Interport Res.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	15,000,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.26	0.28	0.26	0.28	6,240,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.55	0.72	0.55	0.7	14,030,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	2,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.92	1.92	1.9	1.92	76,865,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.4	781,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.155	20,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.4	0.41	0.4	0.41	310,000
SM Development Corp.	1.82	1.84	1.82	1.84	1,216,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8.4	8.5	8.4	8.4	3,119,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	2,300,000
SERVICE					
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	16.5	16.5	16.25	16.5	69,900
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc	1.24	1.28	1.24	1.28	1,470,000
Globe Telecom Inc	1075	1085	1075	1080	38,500
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	4.6	4.65	4.6	4.65	5,602,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	2255	2275	2255	2270	430,690
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.185	0.195	0.185	0.195	400,000
Imperial Res.	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	5,000,000
Ionics Inc.	1.96	1.98	1.96	1.98	77,000
Ipvg Corp.	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	1,050,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	1,000,000
Ism Communications Corp.	0.0575	0.0575	0.0575	0.0575	6,000,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.14	1.2	1.14	1.2	186,000
Transpacific Broadband	1.36	1.38	1.36	1.38	240,000
Philweb Corp.	0.029	0.03	0.029	0.03	25,300,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals, Inc.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	750,000
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	12,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	16.5	17	16.5	16.75	502,200
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	2,100,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.98	2	1.98	2	4,058,000
Manila Jockey Club	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	10,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	300,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	150,000
EDUCATION					
Ipeople, Inc.	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Easycall Phils. Inc.-Com	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	5,000
Macroasia Corp.	2.08	2.12	2.06	2.06	2,620,000
Paxys Inc.	10.5	10.75	10.5	10.75	639,300
MINING & OIL					
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	6.2	6.4	5.9	6	2,795,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	6.4	6.4	5.9	6.1	1,100,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.011	60,700,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	8.2	8.3	8.2	8.2	362,000
Benguet Corp. A	10.75	10.75	10	10	69,200
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.25	0.26	0.24	0.245	7,360,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.27	8,580,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.023	0.023	0.022	0.022	68,800,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	63,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.011	0.011	0.01	0.011	283,300,000
Philex Mining Corp.	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.7	4,719,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	18.75	20.5	18.75	20.5	255,700
Vulcan Ind'l	0.58	0.59	0.57	0.59	370,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated, Inc.	0.28	0.31	0.28	0.3	19,590,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	13,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.011	0.012	0.011	0.011	58,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	1	1	0.98	1	1,070,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	1	1.02	1	1	550,000
PNOC Exploration Corp.-B	12	12	12	12	8,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	9.7	10.25	9.7	10	130,000

CURRENCIES

September 27, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.788084	1.000000	50.3870
Japan	Yen	0.006729	0.008538	0.4302
United Kingdom	Pound	1.492553	1.893900	95.4279
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.101205	0.128419	6.4706
Switzerland	Franc	0.633814	0.804246	40.5235
Canada	Dollar	0.707563	0.897827	45.2388
Singapore	Dollar	0.495869	0.629208	31.7039
Australia	Dollar	0.592233	0.751484	37.8650
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.090575	2.652731	133.6632
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.210151	0.266660	13.4362
Brunei	Dollar	0.494314	0.627235	31.6045
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000085	0.000108	0.0054
Thailand	Baht	0.021016	0.026667	1.3437
UAE	Dirham	0.214579	0.272279	13.7193
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.268900	63.9361
Argentina	Peso	0.254221	0.322581	16.2539
Brazil	Real	0.357814	0.454030	22.8772
Denmark	Kroner	0.134026	0.170065	8.5691
India	Rupee	0.017218	0.021848	1.1009
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.214212	0.271813	13.6958
Mexico	New Peso	0.071549	0.090789	4.5746
New Zealand	Dollar	0.525109	0.666311	33.5734
Norway	Kroner	0.120467	0.152861	7.7022
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013015	0.016515	0.8321
South Africa	Rand	0.102934	0.130613	6.5812
Korea	Won	0.000835	0.001059	0.0534
Sweden	Kroner	0.107402	0.136282	6.8668
Syria	Pound	0.015182	0.019264	0.9707
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023932	0.030367	1.5301
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000367	0.000466	0.0235

More buyers considering firms' social programs

Survey says CSR now part of purchasing decision

By Kate Pedroso
Inquirer Research

"DOING GOOD" CAN TRANSLATE to "doing well," if customer opinions are to be considered, according to the Social Weather Stations.

With 44 percent of adult Filipinos saying that a company's social programs are "very important [factors] in deciding to buy its products," taking care of corporate social responsibility (CSR) projects makes good business sense.

Good business sense

This was one of the main points of the SWS Occasional Paper, 'Judging Companies' Performance: Corporate Social Responsibility in the Philippines."

This makes even better business sense here than in Europe, said SWS president Mahar Mangahas in a survey analysis dated Sept. 27.

Mangahas was referring to an earlier European survey, which found that only an average of 25 percent of residents in 12 countries considered CSR as "very important" in purchasing decisions. Of the 12, Spain had the biggest percentage of adults—47 percent—who consider social programs "very important."

The SWS paper, authored by Linda Guerrero, J.B. Baylon, Gerardo Sandoval and Iremae Labucay, was presented at the 2006 Conference of the American Association for Public Opinion Research.

The CSR findings were among the results included in the 4th Quarter 2005 SWS survey of 1,200 adults nationwide.

The module on CSR was sponsored by the Coca-Cola Export Corp.

The corporate social programs that topped the list of priorities of potential customers included protecting the health and safety of employees (51 percent), providing secure jobs to employees (43 percent), ensuring products do not harm the environment (41 percent), ensuring that operations respect human rights (37 percent) and treating employees fairly (37 percent).

Potential concerns

This list of potential social concerns a company might contribute to or support was based on the first European Survey of Consumers' Attitude Toward Corporate Social Responsibility by British research firm MORI for CSR Europe.

The 2000 survey used a sample of 12,162 adults, or around 1,000 adults each in 12 European countries—Spain, Belgium, Switzerland, Great Britain, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Netherlands, France and Sweden.

The European survey also found similar items topping the priority lists of potential customers, with concern for employee health and safety also leading the list (77 percent).

Other items included in the "European top 5" were: Ensuring operations respect human rights (72 percent); providing secure jobs to employees (70 percent); ensuring products do not harm the environment (68 percent), and fair treatment of all employees (68 percent).

European consumers were also still relatively strongly influenced by a company's support in education (59 percent) and avoidance of bribery (58 percent).

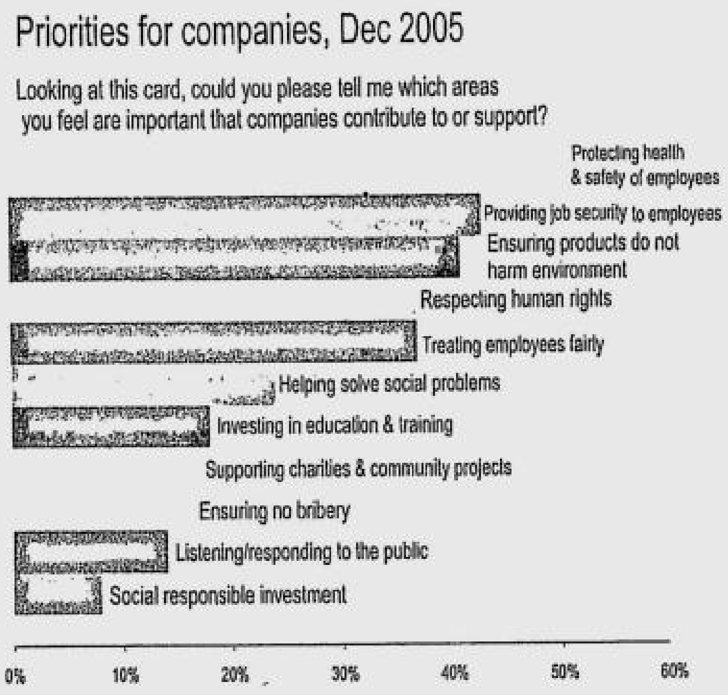
In the Philippines, importance given to other matters, such as support for charities and community projects, and listening or responding to the public (17 and 14 percent, respectively), dropped off sharply after the fifth-ranked social concern.

Investment in education and vigilance against bribery, for instance, were only regarded by 18 and 16 percent, respectively, as important social programs.

Good reputation

Thus, whether in Europe or in the Philippines, SWS said, "having a good reputation as an employer is generally the best means of demonstrating social responsibility to potential customers." Next in line for both locations were the environment and human rights, although Europeans placed higher importance on human rights than the environment.

"Social survey research has demonstrated that a company's exercise of CSR is not only doing good in itself, but is also a significant means of helping the company do well in terms of its profitability," SWS concluded.



ASIAN CSR AWARDS. Former President Corazon C. Aquino was the guest of honor at the 2006 Asian CSR Awards held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Quezon City.
The Asian CSR Awards recognizes and honors companies in Asia for their projects and programs in corporate social responsibility. A staunch advocate of corporate social responsibility, Aquino (fifth from left) delivered the keynote address and presented the awards to this year's winners: 3M Asia Pacific (environmental excellence), Engro Chemicals Pakistan Limited (concern for health), and local companies Globe Telecom (support and improvement of education), Pier One Seaman's Dormitory (poverty alleviation) and Manila Water Company (best workplace practices). With Aquino are (from left) Phinma president Ramon R. del Rosario Jr. and AIM president Francis G. Estrada.

Central Luzon mission to woo US investors

By Ronnel W. Domingo

A TEAM OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT officials from Central Luzon is in California on a mission to drum up investment opportunities for American companies, especially those in information technology-enabled services.

The weeklong sortie started Sept. 26 and would wrap up on Oct. 4.

Mission head Tomas N. Joson III, governor of Nueva Ecija, said in a Sept. 19 letter to Trade Undersecretary Elmer C. Hernandez that the Central Luzon Investment Coordinating Council would meet with executives of various US firms.

The CLIC team also includes Bulacan Gov. Josefina M. dela Cruz, Aurora Gov. Bellaflor Angara-Castillo and representatives of Zambales and Pampanga.

Joson said the team hoped to get insights on what American businessmen were looking for and issues that concern them.

The team also wanted to exchange ideas on how the Philippines and Central Luzon could be promoted to foreign investors.

JOSON III

He added that Central Luzon provinces were taking part in the 21st Philippine-American Exposition Home Show and Auto Show in Los Angeles.

Joson said CLIC had been actively promoting the region through roadshows and promotions, with the last mission sent to Hong Kong earlier this year.

He added that the Anhui Investment Mission in Hong Kong led to a visit to Clark in Pampanga of a delegation at least 300 Chinese businessmen, who also went around Central Luzon to scout for business opportunities.

Central Luzon hosts the Subic Bay Freeport as well as the Clarkfield and Poro Point investment areas, all of which were former military facilities converted into business enclaves.

A new expressway linking Clark and Subic is under construction.

The tollway is planned to extend all the way to Tarlac in the northwest and to Dingalan, Aurora in the east.

Last July, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo announced in her State of the Nation address the creation of "super regions," among which was the Metro Luzon urban beltway that included Metro Manila, Central Luzon and Southern Tagalog. .

The other super regions are the North Luzon agribusiness quadrangle; Central Philippines covering most of the islands between Luzon and Mindanao; Mindanao and the cybercorridor that covers pockets of areas equipped with information and communication technology infrastructure.

Seair gets 2 A320s

By Daxim L. Lucas

NICHE CARRIER SOUTH EAST Asian Airlines (Seair) has inked a deal to lease two Airbus A320 aircraft from Singapore-based Tiger Airways for international and domestic flights.

In a statement released yesterday, Seair said the contract would allow it to jointly promote Philippine tourism and travel with Tiger Airways as well as boost Seair's regional market presence.

The deal calls for Seair to lease two brand-new 180-seater Airbus A320 aircraft.

The aircraft will be permanently based at the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport in Clark, Pampanga and will fly here and abroad.

With this deal, Seair said the airline would help strengthen the Philippines' position on the regional travel map.

"The tie-up makes air travel more convenient, hassle-free, and accessible for those in the Northern and Central Luzon area through its operations based at the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport," the statement said.

The tie-up will also allow Seair to provide additional low-cost travel alternatives to tourists, business people, overseas Filipino workers and their families.

"The arrangement provides Seair with the business knowhow, distribution systems, product knowledge and access to new A320 aircraft from one of the region's leading low fare airlines," Seair co-founder Nikos Gitsis said.

The new routes are expected to increase domestic economic activities, tourism influx and livelihood and employment opportunities in these destinations.

Seair will, however, operate the Airbus planes under the Tiger Airways brand for region-wide marketing purposes.

"Seair will employ at least an additional 100 Filipino technical professionals, including pilots and cabin crew, to run this expanded operation," Seair president Olma Inocentes said.

Cebu Pacific, Tiger ready expansion

By Jun Malig
Inquirer Central Luzon

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC Zone—Officials of the Clark International Airport Corp. (CIAC) on Thursday signed a memorandum of understanding with local carrier Cebu Pacific and the Singapore-based Tiger Airways for the expansion of their domestic and international flights here.

CIAC president and chief executive officer Victor Jose Luciano signed the agreement with Lance Gokongwei, president and CEO of Cebu Pacific, and Tony Davis, Tiger Airways president and CEO.

President Macapagal-Arroyo witnessed the MOU signing at the newly inaugurated Raffles Hotel inside this special economic zone.

Under the MOU, the airlines would make the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport (DMIA) here their local hub.

Luciano said Cebu Pacifc intended to expand its domestic flights to service the Clark-Davao route and other local destinations.

He said the local airline also planned to introduce international flights, including the Clark-Hong Kong and Clark-Singapore routes by the end of this year or early 2007.

Luciano, who served as Clark Development Corp. executive vice president for four years prior to his appointment to CIAC, said Tiger Airways also intended to make DMIA its regional hub.

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National Transmission Corporation
Republic of the Philippines
INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
Supply and Delivery of Steel Poles for CY 2007
The Contract shall be for the Supply and Delivery of 5,000 Sets Steel Poles Type B, Class 2, Grade 65, Direct Burial Application, Zinc Coated, ASTM A572 / A607 /1011 composed of various sizes:
50 Ft. - 1,296 sets;
55 Ft. - 2,040 sets;
60 Ft. - 1,136 sets; and
65 Ft. - 528 sets
In Accordance with Transco Specifications and Schedule of Requirements of the Bidding Documents (BCMD 2006-019)

1. The **NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION (TRANSCO)**, through the **Annual Corporate Budget for the Contract approved by TransCo Board** intends to apply the sum of **Philippine Peso 300,000,000.00** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Supply and Delivery of Steel Poles for CY 2007 *(BCMD 2006-019)*. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. **TRANSCO** now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the **Supply and Delivery of Steel Poles, Direct Burial application in medium corrosive atmospheric condition, galvanized, Grade 65, ASTM A572/A607/1011** as per latest TransCo. Approved Specifications. Delivery of the GOODS is required within **120 calendar days from contract effectivity**. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorship, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from **TRANSCO** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below starting September 25, 2006 from **8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.**
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of ***Philippine Peso 20,000.00.*** The method of payment will be on cash basis only. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. **TRANSCO** will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on October 11, 2006, *10:00 A.M. at Hilario C. Gaerlan Function Room, Power Training Center Building, National Transmission Corporation, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City, Metro Manila, Philippines.*
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before **October 25, 2006, *10:00 A.M.*** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form and in the amount specified in Section III of the Bidding Documents, BDS or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on **October 25, 2006, *10:00 A.M.*** at *Felimon C. Rodriguez Function Room, Power Training Center Building, National Transmission Corporation, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City, Metro Manila, Philippines.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the said address.
9. The Bidding is also open to Foreign bidders with eligibility requirements described above and in the Bidding Documents.
10. **TRANSCO** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring ay liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

MR. JOSE MARI M. ILAGAN
Manager, Bids and Contracts Management Department
Ground Floor, TransCo Main Building, Power Center
National Transmission Corporation
Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road
1104 Diliman, Quezon City, Metro Manila, PHILIPPINES
Telephone Nos. (632) 981-4652; 981-2212; 981-2213
TeleFax No.: (632) 921-23-08
Email address: jmilagan@transco.ph
http://www.transco.ph

(Sgd.) GUILLERMO R. REDOBLADO
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – September 23 & 30, 2006)

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In loving memory of Dad

Dionisio "Jun" Oppus Llamas Jr.

Sept 18, 1930 - Sept 25, 2006

Novena Mass

Saturday, September 30, 2006, 11am
St. Alphonsus Parish Canter, Chapel 1, Magallanes
Celebrant: Bishop Chito Tagle
Saturday, September 30, 2006, 8:00pm
St. Alphonsus Parish Canter, Chapel 1, Magallanes
Celebrant: Roy, Cosca, SJ

Funeral Mass

Sunday, October 1, 2006, 2:00pm
Don Bosco Church, Makati City
Celebrant: Fr. Carmelo A. Caluag

He is survived by his loving wife: Iding

His children:

Jerine
Doji & Margie
Jocelyn & Chito,
Yvette & Cary
Jayjay
Jingjing & Toti
Jeena & Ernie

His grandchildren:

Jessica, Jamie, & Roberta
Marielle, Marco & Sancho
Mikko, Johann, & Nixee
Marty, Carlos, Jaime, Javi, & Josef
Juha & Arianna, Blade, Sabre & Ice

Dad, as you always would say:
"Don't worry, everything will be alright !"

LIGAYA HERNANDEZ ALDAY

Peacefully joined her Creator
on September 28, 2006 at the age of 62.

Her bereaved husband **Engr. Rodolfo Kalalo Alday**; children, **Drs. Rinna Ritchie & Rico Atienza & Rodney Raggie Alday**; grandchildren **Riel, Ria & Rionna**; parents † **Gonzalo B. Hernandez & Dionisia Montalbo**; parents-in-law † **Jose M. Alday, Sr.**, † **Marcelina B. Kalalo**; brothers, sisters and in-laws, **Gil & Margie, Gonzalo Jr. & Carol, Lito & Nenita, Grace Hernandez, Naty & Arthur Dilay, Tita & Philip Huang, Myrna & Bebot Remo, Ebot & Randy Dilay**, nephews & nieces, uncles & aunts, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to join them in prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Jose Rizal Room, Funeraria Paz-Sucat, Paranaque City.

Interment will be announced later.

CARLOS N. ARABIRAN

of North Greenhills

Joined his Creator on September 28, 2006 at Cardinal Santos Memorial Hospital at the age of 76.

His loving wife **Zenaida A. Arabiran**; children and children-in-law **Armando, Andres Allen, Andres Alex, Frankie & Agnes A. Santos** and **Ariel & Tess A. Arabiran**; grandchildren **Nikki, Nikko, Carla, Paolo, Raphael** and **Jun-Jun**; sisters **Milagros Bagasan, Carmelita Luna** and **Julieta Angeles**; brother-in-law **Mario Luna**; relatives and friends request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the La Funeraria Paz, Chapel B-6, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, October 3, 2006 at Holy Cross Memorial Park, P. de la Cruz St., Quirino Highway, San Bartolome, Novaliches, Quezon City after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

In Loving Memory

CONSUELO J. FAUSTINO

December 6, 1924 - September 30, 2005

FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered
at the following churches today:

Sta. Rita de Casia *Sta. Rita, Pampanga*	(09/30/06)	5:30 AM
Immaculate Conception Parish Church *Guagua, Pampanga*		10:00 AM
Poor Clare Monastery *Betis, Guagua, Pampanga*		6:00 AM
Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes *Cabetican Bacolor, Pampanga*		7:00 AM
Holy Rosary Parish *Angeles City*		6:15 AM
Metropolitan Cathedral *San Fernando, Pampanga*		7:00 AM
Our Lady of Sorrows Parish *Dolores, San Fernando, Pampanga*		6:00 AM
St. Paul Novitiate *San Fernando, Pampanga*		6:30 AM
Sn. Guillermo Parish *Bacolor, Pampanga*	(10/01/06)	8:30 AM
Carmelite Monastery *Angeles City*		6:00 AM
St. James the Apostle *Betis, Guagua, Pampanga*		6:10 AM
Santuario de San Jose *East Greenhills, San Juan, M.M.*		6:15 AM
Mary the Queen Church *West Greenhills, San Juan, M.M.*		6:00 AM
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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The *Media and Communications Secretariat of the 12th ASEAN Summit* through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) of the Presidential Broadcast Staff - RTVM is inviting suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid the hereunder project:

Integration Services and Rental of Audio, Lighting & Audio Visual Equipment including detailed engineering plans & design, aesthetics, installation & operation at the Shangri-La Mactan Island & Resort Hotel, Portofino Structural Tents, Cebu International Convention Center & Gala Night for the 12th ASEAN Summit in Cebu.

1. Completion Time
   On or before November 27, 2006
2. Approved Budget for the Contract: Php 60,000,000.00
   Source of Funding: ASEAN Fund

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last three (3) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification, and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed as follows:

Activities	Date	Time	Place
1) Issuance of Bid Documents	Sept. 30, 2006	10:00 AM	PBS-RTVM
2) Pre-Bidding Conference	Oct. 13, 2006	10:00 AM	PBS-RTVM
3) Last Day of Submission and Opening of Bids	Oct. 25, 2006	10:00 AM	PBS-RTVM

Bid Documents including details of specification will be available at the PBS-RTVM Procurement Section of the Admin & Finance Division (c/o Mr. Cyrus M. Reputana) Tel. Nos. 734-5681/735-6187 to prospective bidders only upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Php 3,000.00 to the Presidential Broadcast Staff-RTVM Cashier.

The Presidential Broadcast Staff-RTVM assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) **MELBA B. ALIGAEN**
BAC Chairman

(PDI - Sept. 30, 2006)

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NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that **MACTAN SHANGRI-LA HOTEL & RESORT, INC.** is applying for registration with the Board of Investments (BOI) as **Modernization Project of its De Luxe Class Hotel** on a Pioneer Status with project/plant site located at Punta Engaño Road, Mactan Island, Lapu-lapu City.

Any person with valid objection/s on the above-mentioned project may file his/her objection in writing, under oath, with the BOI within three (3) days from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) **RUDY B. CAÑA**
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(PDI - Sept. 30, 2006)

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Diagnosis first step in dealing with ADHD

By Charles E. Buban

IS YOUR CHILD AUTISTIC or does your child have Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)? Oftentimes people interchange these two conditions thinking they are one and the same.

Don't blame them. While autism and ADHD are two different disorders, their symptoms often overlap. This is why it is not unusual for autism to be confused with ADHD, a relatively milder disorder that is the most common of the psychiatric disorders that appear in childhood.

Although treatment has improved greatly in the past few decades, autism cannot be cured and persists throughout life. In contrast, ADHD may be successfully treated if diagnosed as early as possible.

"Which is why it is important to seek professional help such as from a developmental pediatrician, child psychiatrist, child psychologist, child neurologist or general pediatrician. A thorough examination from any of these experts may be able to determine if the child has ADHD, which may now lead to what effective treatment options are available," advised Dr. Joel Lazaro, a diplomate of the Philippine Pediatric Society and a fellow of the Philippine Society for Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics.

3 subtypes of ADHD

NOT ALL CHILDREN HAVE THE SAME TYPE OF ADHD. BECAUSE THE DISORder varies among individuals, some may be hyperactive, others may be underactive while some may have great problems with attention. Others may be mildly inattentive but overly impulsive. Still others may have significant problems in all three areas (attention, hyperactivity and impulsivity). Thus, there are three subtypes of ADHD (along with their core symptoms):

Inattention symptoms

- Fails to give close attention to details or makes careless mistakes in schoolwork
- Difficulty sustaining attention in tasks or play
- Does not seem to listen when spoken to directly
- Does not follow through on instructions and fails to finish schoolwork, chores, or duties in the workplace
- Difficulty organizing tasks and activities
- Avoids or dislikes tasks that require sustained mental effort (such as schoolwork)
- Often loses toys, assignments, pencils, books, or tools needed for tasks or activities
- Easily distracted
- Often forgetful in daily activities

Hyperactivity symptoms

- Fidgets with hands or feet or squirms in seat
- Leaves seat when remaining seated is expected
- Runs about or climbs in inappropriate situations
- Difficulty in playing quietly
- Often "on the go," acts as if "driven by a motor," talks excessively

Impulsivity symptoms

- Blurts out answers before questions have been completed
- Difficulty awaiting turn
- Interrupts or intrudes on others (butts into conversations or games)

Stigma and fear

Every family wants to determine what treatment will be most effective for their child. However, Lazaro admitted that the stigma and fear associated with treatment often overcomes parents before seeking care.

"If untreated, ADHD can have long-term effects on a child's ability to make friends or do well at school or in other activities. Over time, children with ADHD may develop depression, lack of self-esteem, and other emotional problems," the doctor reminded.

This is also why the ADHD Society of the Philippines recently started a campaign calling on parents to learn the telltale signs, the so-called core ADHD symptoms (see chart), that they should be watching out for if they suspect their child of having the condition.

The Ateneo de Manila University-based society explained that through this initial step, parents may be able to accept the condition of their child and seek appropriate treatment.

Mix of approaches

Lazaro said that current ADHD treatment, which may be able to improve the quality of life for their child, includes a mix of approaches, such as drug therapy, counseling, supportive services in schools and communities, and various combinations of the three.

But which treatment is right? This is a critical question that must be answered by each family in consultation with their health care professional, Lazaro explained.

For children with ADHD, no single treatment is the answer for every child and in developing suitable treatments for ADHD, each child's needs, personal and medical history, research findings, and other relevant factors need to be carefully considered.

Effective method

Research continues to this day, but the results seem to point out that medication is one effective method of dealing with ADHD symptoms.

Stimulant as well as antidepressant medications have proven to be effective for treating ADHD symptoms. However parents are sometimes hesitant to place their child on such controlled substances, for fear of substance abuse plus the fact that there were reported cases of children having their medication stolen or even selling them.

Recently, another medication was developed and approved for the treatment of ADHD. Unlike the earlier medications, atomoxetine (which was manufactured and marketed by Eli Lilly and Co. under the brand name Strattera) is nonstimulant but comparable if not better in treating symptoms of ADHD in children, adolescents and even adults.

Atomoxetine may be especially helpful to patients who cannot tolerate stimulants due to specific side effects (such as tics or the habitual spasmodic muscular movement or contraction, usually of the face or extremities), and for those who had an unsatisfactory response to stimulant medications. The drug might also be considered first-line by families who don't want their child treated with stimulant medicines.

"While these medications may greatly increase a child's ability to deal with ADHD, it should be only a part of the overall treatment: The drugs may be most effective—with the fewest side effects—when used in combination with behavioral therapy," Lazaro advised.

Some of these are cognitive-behavioral therapy that help individuals with ADHD like and accept themselves despite their disorder as well as help them work on immediate issues; social skills training that help children learn new behaviors, support groups that connect individuals and groups with common concerns; and parenting skills that provide parents tools and techniques for managing their child's behavior.

News from out of this world

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon

LAST WEEK THE CASSINI-HUYGENS SPACEcraft photographed a previously unknown ring around the planet Saturn by being in the right place at the right time, namely a 12-hour solar occultation.

According to Nasa's press release, the spacecraft, which is on a four-year mission for Nasa (National Aeronatics and Space Administration), the European Space Agency, and the Italian Space Agency, was in Saturn's shadow while the sun was directly behind the planet, which allowed Cassini ample time to record the entirety of the largest of Saturn's (previously) known 7 rings—the E-ring.

More exciting news comes from a planet even farther from the Earth than Saturn however. Just weeks after the International Astronomical Union (IAU) demoted Pluto to "dwarf planet" status, the other dwarf planet that many blame for its demotion has been given a name, thus solidifying its new status. The dwarf planet formerly known as 2003 UB313 is now known as Eris.

Suitable name

The name seems apt, and was proposed by the astronomer Mike Brown from the California Institute of Technology and his colleagues from the Gemini Observatory and Yale University. (Brown et al. also chose the name the IAU adopted for Eris' moon.) They are the same astronomers credited with discovering the dwarf planet back in 2005.

In Greek mythology, Eris is the goddess who started the Trojan War by tossing a golden apple labeled "to the fairest" in the midst of Hera, Aphrodite and Athena. When the goddesses could not agree on the recipient of the apple, they asked the mortal shepherd Paris to determine the rightful owner of the apple and the title it bore. Unsurprisingly each one of them then tried to bribe the man. Hera offered Paris political power, Athena offered the shepherd victory in battle, and Aphrodite offered him the most beautiful woman in the world as his bride. Paris chose the latter, and his marriage to Helen of Troy, bearer of "the face that launched a thousand ships," resulted in the epic battle Homer later recorded in "The Iliad."

While the Caltech team celebrates Eris' newly official status, researchers on America's east coast announced the discovery of a planet farther still—in another constellation in fact—that is nearly one and a half times the size of Jupiter but which has only half that planet's mass.

New interstellar body

For now the new discovery is going by the name HAT-P-1b. It was discovered using the Hungarian Automated Telescope Network—HATNet for short—project, which was started back in 2003 and is led by astronomer Gaspar Bakos of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics (CfA).

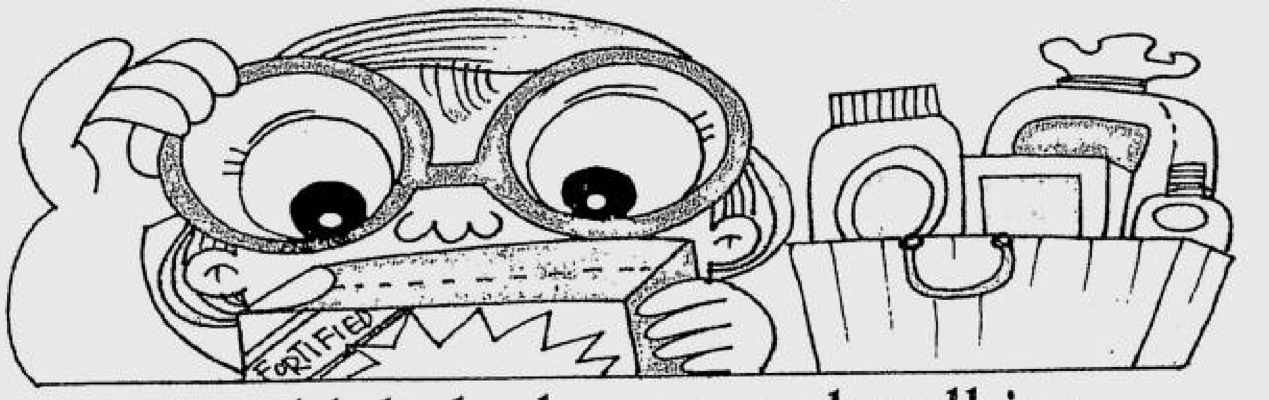
In the Harvard-Smithsonian CfA press release regarding the new planet, Bakos notes that "we could be looking at an entirely new class of planets... Just like Saturn, it would float in a bathtub if you could find a tub big enough to hold it in, but it would float almost three times higher." Bakos is also the lead author of the paper regarding this discovery in the Astrophysical Journal.

The size of the planet has surprised its discoverers, who are still trying to explain how a planet could get this big. Astronomers agree that heating a planet's interior enough to have it swell up like a balloon is the likely explanation, though the hows and whys of such an event are still a mystery.

There is no word yet on when the IAU will officially recognize Bakos et al.'s large-but-light planet, nor what names the astronomers are considering for their discovery. Given that the size of the planet has surprised many, though, it seems fairly likely that the IAU may even consider once again redefining the term "planet." Bakos et al.'s planet may even become the first of a whole new category of interstellar bodies. At any rate, it is safe to say Pluto's reclassification not so long ago was just the tip of the iceberg. Shakespeare had it right: "there are more things in heaven ... than are dreamt of."

* * *

E-mail the writer at massie@massie.com.



Food labels, beans and walking

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

WHAT ATTRACTS US TO CERTAIN foods? The taste, the price, the package? Nutrition and health should be near the top of the list, thus we need to read food labels. According to the Food and Nutrition Institute, a nutrition claim describes nutrient levels in food and the link between that nutrient and the deficiency that can result from its lack. For example, orange juice can be labeled as "enriched with vitamin C" and "vitamin C prevents scurvy." A health claim, on the other hand, shows the relationship between a nutrient and a disease, guiding us toward a balanced diet. For instance, milk can be labeled as "containing calcium" and "calcium can help prevent osteoporosis." All these labels have to be approved by the Bureau of Food and Drugs.

Perhaps the most widespread seal of approval is the Sangkap Pinoy Seal (SPS), but the 2003 Food Consumption Survey says that only 16 out of 100 Filipino households know about the seal. But 99.2 percent use products with SPS. The SPS is given to food products fortified with vitamin A, iron and iodine either individually or combined. A food item that carries SPS means that at least 1/3 of the recommended nutrient intakes for vitamin A, iron and iodine is satisfied.

Natural foods

But enriched or fortified foods are not enough. In fact, natural foods like legumes pack a nutritional wallop, and we tend to take these for granted. Aside from containing niacin, vitamin B6, folic acid, phosphorus, potassium, magnesium and zinc, legumes are good protein sources, especially when eaten with grains. Legumes are essential in the growth of children, and because they have a lot of fiber, they can help control diabetes.

Beans are the most common legumes, and they can be eaten straight from the can or mixed with cereals. Colors and types abound: red, black, green, white and brown. Try munggo in munggo guisado, tausi with bangus, green peas in menudo or afritada, or halo-halo with sweet beans.

Exercise

But diet is not the only component of a healthy lifestyle. Exercise is the other side of the coin. What can be simpler than walking? Brisk walking for 30 minutes, three to four times a week, can do wonders for the body and mind. Required are a pair of comfortable walking shoes and the motivation to get off the couch. According to the Philippine Association for the Study of Overweight and Obesity, the benefits of walking include more energy, relaxation, stress reduction, better sleep, better muscles and appetite control.

But for the elderly or those who have been inactive for a while, get clearance from the doctor. Be aware also of the following while exercising: pains in the chest or on the left side of the neck, shoulder and arm; faintness or dizziness; extreme breathlessness after a mild walk; joint problems like arthritis. If you experience any of these conditions, inform your doctor at once.

Walking is simple, true, but many of us do not do it properly. This is the ideal way: Walk with chin up and shoulders held slightly back, with the heel touching the ground first and roll weight forward. Walk with toes pointed forward and swing arms gently.

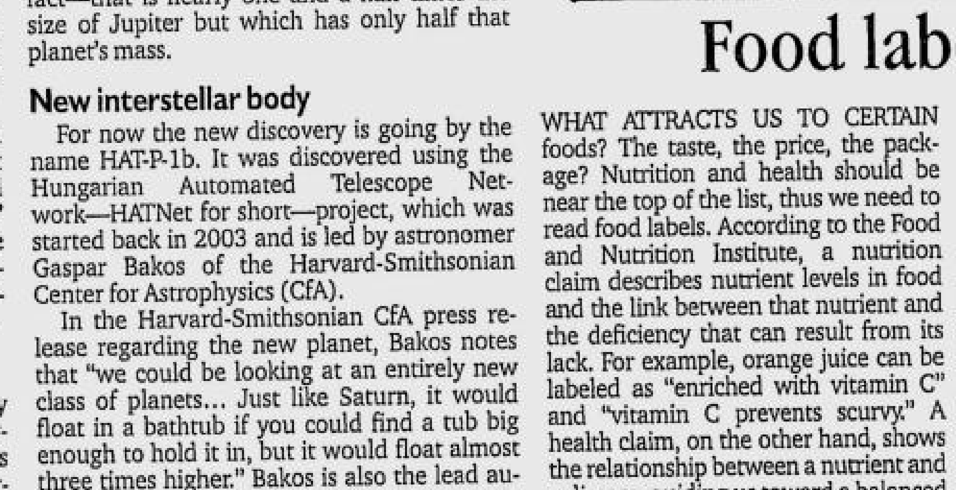
My thanks go to Ma. Susana Encarnacion and Charina Javier of the S & T Media Service for their help. For more information on food and nutrition, you may write the Food and Nutrition Research Institute, Department of Science and Technology, General Santos Avenue, Bicutan, Taguig City, with telefax 837-2934, 837-3164, e-mail: mvc@fnri.dost.gov.ph; website: www.fnri.dost.gov.ph.

* * *

E-mail the writer at blessbook@yahoo.com.

Filipinos lulled into false sense of security against avian flu?

By Tessa R. Salazar



EITHER WE'RE VERY LUCKY, OR WE JUST don't know it yet.

The Philippines, so far, has not had any reported case of avian influenza (of the H5N1 strain) within its shores yet. The relative calm, however, doesn't mean there's no storm approaching, if you ask doctors and epidemiologists.

This seeming immunity from a disease that is already making its deadly presence felt in other southeast Asian countries may be lulling the country's citizens into a "false sense of security," experts fear. And this could also lead to a situation where the country will be caught by surprise and by the time it prepares for the onset of avian flu, it would be too little, too late.

Not merely gov't responsibility

Dr. Kenneth Hartigan Go, executive director of Zuellig Foundation, urged the private sector during the Philippine College of Physicians health forum, to do more to prepare the public for the eventuality of the disease. He said he disagreed with the idea that keeping the avian flu in check was merely a government responsibility.

Critical industries, services and utilities such as water, telecommunication, food, transport, banking, hospitals and pharmaceuticals, and import/export agencies are all necessary to keep society functioning especially in times of crises, Go said.

Floreen Simon, exective director of Corporate Network for Disaster Response, observed that multinational companies seemed most prepared. As such, CNDR has targeted small and medium enterprises that have not received the right information on the avian flu.

"Even with an incentive program from the government, the notion of a small- and medium-scale backyard farmer or poultry livestock owner killing the chicken than report a suspected bird flu case means there's a glitch in our preparedness plan," she said.

The second national summit on business continuity planning: private sector pandemic preparedness will be held Oct. 5 at the SGV Hall of the AIM Acceed and will determine where the country stands against the avian flu. It will also tackle scientific and economic conditions.

Jose Miguel Curameng, program manager for Zuellig Foundation, observed that more businesses are preparing on their own, but would like to learn more and get more in-depth in their preparations. "We would like to spread this (urgency) to small and medium enterprises."

Media's role

Go also urged media to exercise "social responsibility" in educating the public about bird flu. Though the cases of bird flu may not amount to much, what is alarming would be the fatality rate among the reported cases. An unsettling 60 percent of those who contract the flu die.

The World Health Organization's avian flu website update shows that of the 25 cases confirmed in Thailand as of Sept. 27, 17 have been fatal (nearly 70 percent fatality rate).

Of the 67 cases confirmed in Indonesia as of Sept. 25, 51 have been fatal (76 percent fatality rate). In Iraq, where three cases have been reported, two were fatal. Of the 21 cases confirmed in China, 14 have been fatal, and of the 14 cases in Egypt thus far, six have been fatal.

"Anything more than 10 percent (fatality rate) is a serious public health concern. If (bird flu) doesn't scare the hell out of people, I don't know what else will," said Go.

Go said he has yet to see a system wherein private hospitals would be able to integrate their management with the DOH or other local government hospitals.

"When the time comes, the (man-made boundaries between government and private hospital systems) will not matter anymore," he said.

"I think hospitals can be more proactive and reach out to the government. We have manpower, nurses, beds, respirators, drugs. How can we help?" he asked.

BUSINESS

RP debt burden eased to $53.9B in June

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES' FOREIGN DEBT BURDEN eased by 3.8 percent to $53.9 billion as of end-June this year from $56 billion a year ago as the government cut back on new borrowings, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported yesterday.

This was also down by nearly $1.4 billion or 2.5 percent from $55.3 billion in end-March or a quarter ago.

Consolidated public sector external debt dropped by $482 million during the period although its share to total increased to 69.1 percent from 68.2 percent in March.

With the reduction in debt, the country was able to contain its external debt-service ratio—or the percentage of the country's total principal and interest payments to total exports of goods and receipts from services and income—well below the 20-percent international benchmark.

The debt-service ratio in end-June was 11.5 percent, an improvement from 12.4 percent a quarter ago and 13.3 percent a year ago.

Similarly, the debt service burden-to-current account receipts ratio dropped to 10.9 percent from 11.7 percent and 12.4 percent a quarter ago and a year ago, respectively.

At their current levels, the external debt-service ratio and debt-service burden ratio to current account receipts declined by 5.6 and 4.9 percentage points when compared against the record high levels posted in 2002 of 17.1 percent and 15.8 percent, respectively.

The ratios indicate the country's increasing capacity to generate foreign exchange earnings to service current maturities of its foreign obligations.

Considerable improvement was also posted by the external debt ratio, or outstanding external debt as a percentage of aggregate output or gross national product (GNP) for the 12-month period ending June 2000. This further dropped to 46.5 percent in June from 47.7 percent in March and 56.2 percent a year ago.

The current external debt ratio represented a 31.9-percent drop from its peak of 68.3 percent in 2001. As a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP), the external debt ratio likewise fell to 50.7 percent from 52 percent in March and 60.7 percent a year ago.

Whether measured using GNP or GDP, declining debt ratios represent a favorable development as this indicates that the economy is growing faster than the rate it accumulates external debt and, therefore, better able to service its debt on a sustained basis.

By maturity, 89 percent of the country's external debt were medium and long term (or those with original tenors of more than one year) and had a weighted average maturity of 18 years. Public sector borrowings had a longer average term of 20.5 years, compared to 10 years for the private sector.

Official creditors—consisting of multilateral institutions such as the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank—and bilateral creditors like the Japan Bank for International Cooperation accounted for 39.6 percent of the total debt.

Foreign holders of Philippine bonds and notes accounted for 33.9 percent, and foreign banks and other financial institutions, 20.9 percent.

The rest of the creditors (5.6 percent) were mostly foreign suppliers.

Japan firms getting more optimistic on RP

By Ronnel W. Domingo

JAPANESE FIRMS' BUSINESS SENTIMENT on the country improved further with a gain of 2.9 points in September, with ratings improving for the fourth straight month although the number remained on the negative at -1.5.

According to the Japan External Trade Organization, this was the 17th consecutive month that the Philippines was given a negative rating.

However, Jetro's latest monthly diffusion index survey showed that sentiment would improve significantly to a positive 3.6 in the next month or two.

Jetro data also showed that the country was given the most improved rating among the five original members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, which included Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and Singapore.

Indonesia's rating jumped 8.9 points but remained the lowest at -37.1 while best performing Singapore's rating went down slightly by 0.3 points to 15.4.

Thailand's rating slid 1.6 points to -9.7 while Malaysia was downgraded by 7.2 points to -10 points.

Jetro said overall sentiment for the five countries remained "subdued" for the 10th straight month.

The ratings measure year-on-year changes in business outlook for the current month and two or three months ahead.

Ratings are expressed as diffusion indices, which show the difference between positive and negative responses.

Confidence in the Philippines was last seen on the positive side in April 2005 when respondents gave the country a rating of 1.6 points.

Since Jetro started the poll in June 2001, Philippine ratings had bottomed at -40.9 in December of that year and peaked at 22.9 in September 2004 before dipping to current ratings.

Jetro explained that the aim of the survey was to provide up-to-date information on business conditions in the Asian economy to help companies develop more effective business strategies.

Firms were asked to compare earnings prospects, supply and demand, inventory, sales prices and accounts receivable with the same period a year earlier.

Philippine-based respondents in the August survey included 192 firms engaged in businesses involving oil, chemicals, steel, metals, electric and electronic machinery, transportation machinery and other manufacturing concerns as well as construction, real estate, transport, communication, commerce, services and other non-manufacturing activities.

Gov't not pushing new tax measures

By Michelle V. Remo

THE ARROYO ADMINISTRATION will not push for any new tax measures anytime soon as the government seeks to first realize the expected revenue gains from the newly implemented revenue-raising measures.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves told reporters it would be difficult to justify to Congress any move to raise taxes or implement new tax measures as the government's revenue-collecting agencies have yet to prove that they could collect the revenues with the most recent tax measures.

"(Any move to increase taxes) would depend on our track record of collecting the taxes from the existing measures. Congress will not look at us (executive) kindly if we don't deliver," Teves said.

The government is banking on the VAT Reform Law to help the government achieve. the goal of reducing the deficit until it is totally wiped out in 2008. The government expects to collect P75 billion in additional revenues from the VAT.

The VAT law basically expanded the coverage of the value-added tax to include previously exempted oil and electricity, among others, and raised the tax rate to 12 percent from 10 percent. A minor provision of the VAT law raised the corporate income tax rate from 32 to 35 percent.

Fiscal authorities earlier reported that so far, VAT collections were on track to meet the P75-billion full-year target.

The tax measure generated P38.23 billion in additional revenues for the government in the first half of the year, exceeding the P31.04-billion target for the period by 23 percent.

The bigger share of P25.76 billion was delivered by the Bureau of Customs, which charges VAT on imports. Customs' VAT collection was 3-percent higher than its P25-billion goal for the period. The Bureau of Internal Revenue, which charges VAT on domestically produced goods, collected P12.47 billion in additional revenues from the new VAT law. This was 107-percent higher than its P6.03-billion goal for January to June.

Bills on the rationalization of fiscal incentives and the simplified net income tax system, which the Arroyo administration has been pushing since 2004, are still pending in the legislature.

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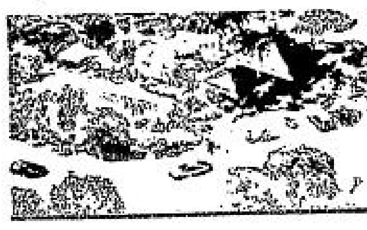
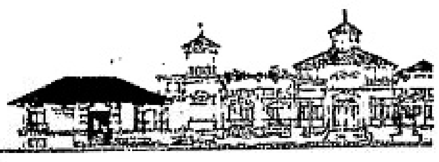


PROPERTY

Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**



Real estate catalogue to lure foreign retirees to RP

By Tessa R. Salazar

THE INEQUALITY OF THE currencies is what the Philippines' retirement industry is trumpeting nowadays to attract foreign retirees here.

How does that work? Simply put, the dollars you saved in the States, the euros you saved in Europe, or the riyal you saved in Saudi Arabia has a lot more value here in the Philippines. Say, a retiree couple spending their twilight years in Los Angeles has only $128 a month left for all discretionary spending, after all the taxes and bills are paid. If they lived here in the Philippines, that value would increase to something like $1,084.

Realty catalogue

Money talks, indeed. And the higher the value, the louder it gets. And the louder it gets, the more people will take notice. At least, that's what the real estate catalogue is counting on.

The catalogue, recently distributed in the United States in print and online, shows a chart of a typical retiree couple's monthly pension in Los Angeles at $3,000, how it would be spent there, and a comparison of how that amount would translate here. Roughly put, as the couple lived in relative thrift in the States, here they could employ a full-time domestic helper, a full-time driver and still be left with over $1,000 to spend any way they want.

An initial 10,000 copies of the glossy Filproperty have been distributed among Filipino stores in the United States and in Philippine Airlines flights this month. The creation of the Philippine Real Estate Catalogue and its website www.filproperty.com sprang out from the recent retirement summit organized by the Philippine Retirement Authority chaired by Edgar B. Aglipay and private partner Philippine Retirement Industry chaired by president Ernesto M. Ordoñez. The partnership was created to "market" the Philippines as an ideal retirement haven.

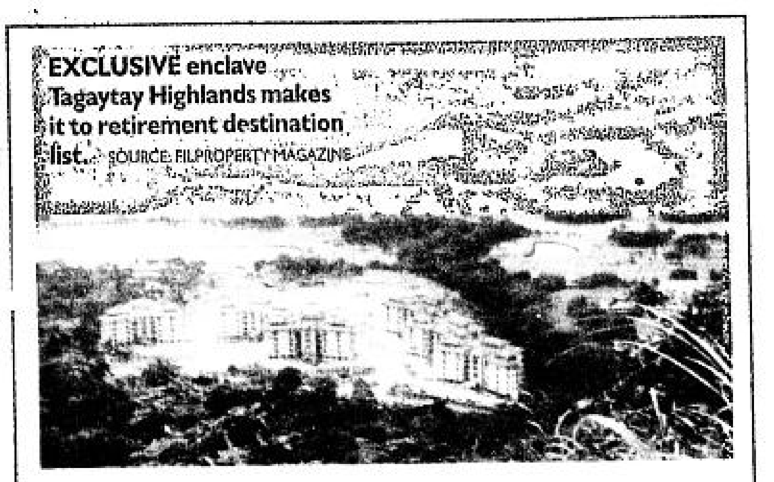
Contents

Filproperty's contents describe how retirees could take advantage of the Philippines' range of services covering housing, lifestyle services and healthcare. It also showed requirements and costs in acquiring a special resident visa (SRV). The SRV is a nonimmigrant

REAL/ B2-4

filproperty
PHILIPPINE REAL ESTATE CATALOG
Smile at life
Never Ending Holiday
The Philippine Retirement Issue

WILL this property catalogue put the Philippines in the world map's top retirement destination?
SOURCE: FILPROPERTY MAGAZINE



EXCLUSIVE enclave Tagaytay Highlands makes it to retirement destination list. SOURCE: FILPROPERTY MAGAZINE

Will RP property catalogue undo years of bad publicity?

By Tessa R. Salazar

INQUIRER PROPERTY RECENTLY conducted a mini survey among some foreigners and Filipinos based abroad and asked them if they would consider the Philippines after logging on to www.filproperty.com (the retirement industry's webpage version).

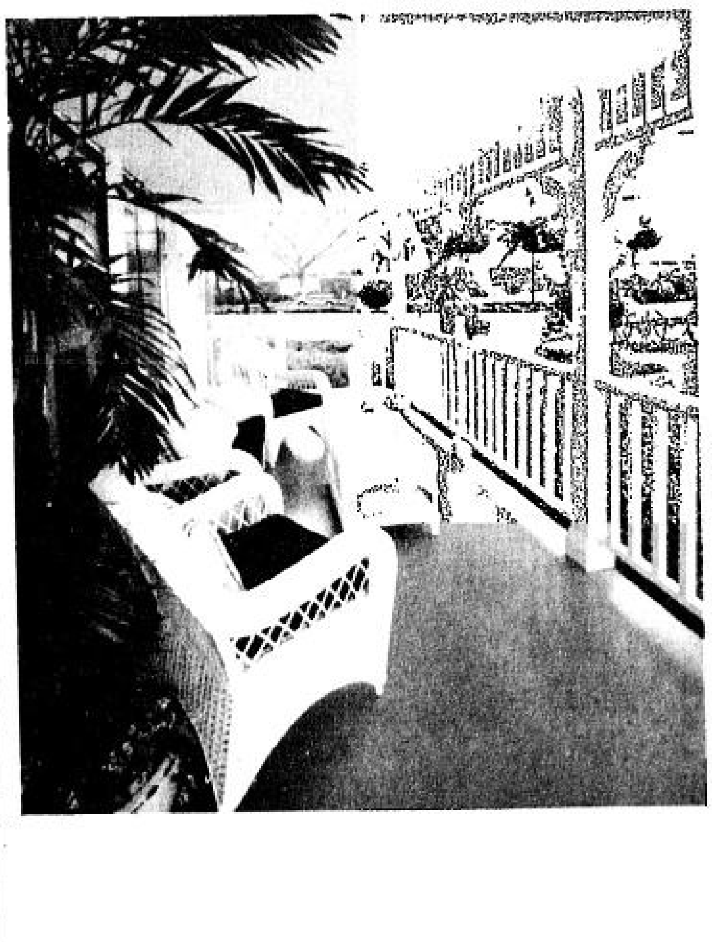
Some of those surveyed think the website was fresh, as most news on websites and broadcast about the Philippines were negative.

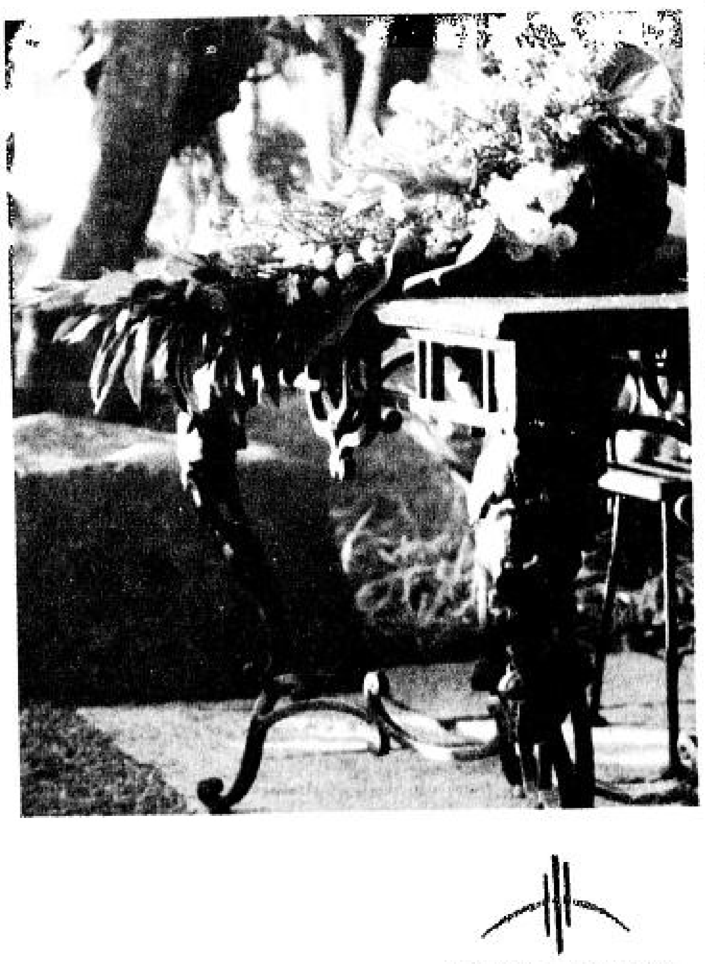
Glenn Ormond, 49, an American marketing executive in the States and who has no retirement plans yet, gets most of his information on the Philippines from local Filipino newspapers and national news broadcasts in the States.

"Typically, when the US me

WILL/ B2-4

Brittany





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Green design, concrete gardens and flooding

GREEN ARCHITRENDS

Amado de Jesus

FILIPINOS LOVE TO COMPLAIN. They complain about the traffic, the heat, high prices of goods and of course, the perennial flooding of city streets. Flooding disrupts normal day to day life and business operations. It also brings about health problems, especially for the young and the elderly. Flood-prone areas like riverbanks where many of the urban poor dwell, are at most risk due to the extensive damage flooding brings to life and property.

Many are wondering why areas that never got flooded before now easily have flash floods during a sudden downpour. This is true for many progressive towns and residential areas.

Once the rainy season is over, people tend to forget all about flooding until the next strong rain or typhoon comes. Then everyone complains all over again blaming the government and other institutions that should be able to do something about the problem.

Why is there flooding?

Global warming is one of the major reasons flooding is now a major worldwide concern especially for countries that are natural catch basins for storm water. Global warming has resulted in glaciers melting, sea levels rising and severe storms becoming more frequent.

In some cases, certain areas get easily flooded because their ground elevation is lower than the sea level. This is the case in many parts of Manila.

Other areas get flooded because their drainage system is either inadequate, nonexistent or simply clogged with garbage.

One of the reasons that contribute to frequent flooding in major urban areas is the excessive concreting of the ground. There are too many hard surfaces. They are sometimes referred to as concrete gardens.

What are concrete gardens?

Concrete gardens are the pavements and other hard surfaces that cover areas that were once covered with grass and vegetation. Rainwater flows over these hard surfaces filling up drains all at once.

Many homes and offices also choose to cover their surrounding areas with concrete to reduce maintenance costs and to provide additional parking space.

How to prevent flooding?

For starters, maintaining open green spaces with extensive landscaping is one of the best ways to help prevent flooding. Large trees in particular help reduce flooding by absorbing huge quantities of water.

Keeping garden spaces around the home will also help. Whenever we need to pave certain areas around the home or workplace, we should use either flagstones or stepping-stones or pervious or porous pavement. This will allow rainwater to gradually filter through the soil minimizing the impact of a sudden downpour. This system will also help reduce the cost of drainage. In addition, by allowing rainwater to filter through the soil, the aquifer or underground reservoir is naturally charged.

For land development, builders can adopt what is known as the swale system. A swale system is a natural way to address the problem of drainage. It is made up of a gently sloping ditch or open canal with grass, to guide the water as it flows on the side of a road or a structure. As water flows through the ditch, a large quantity is absorbed by the ground reducing the need for a large and expensive concrete drainage system.

Some countries in Europe divert floodwaters into a temporary storage area like an open pasture. They are kept in the area for about 48 hours before discharging it into waterways.

One of the most practical and beautiful solutions to help prevent flooding is by developing green roofs on the roof deck of buildings.

Green roofs are roof decks that have been converted into landscaped gardens. They are most effective in treating storm water runoff.

In open, undisturbed land, 60 percent of rainwater reaches the aquifers that nourish the plants and about 40 percent is released into the atmosphere through plant evaporation and transpiration. There is rarely any runoff or excess water. In urban areas this is not the case. With many hard and nonporous surfaces in cities, 10 percent of the rainwater reaches the aquifers, 15 percent evaporates into the air through vegetation and 75 percent of the rainwater becomes runoff.

PERVIOUS or porous paving for parking areas allows rainwater to gradually filter through the soil minimizing the impact of a sudden downpour.

PHOTO SOURCE: KARIN HEBMANN

FREQUENT flooding in major urban areas is the result of having too many hard surfaces, sometimes referred to as concrete gardens. Rainwater flows over these hard surfaces filling up drains all at once.

PHOTO SOURCE: ENVIRONMENT CITY LEICESTER

Green roofs act like a sponge absorbing rainwater and delaying its release, giving the street drainage more time to flush out and discharge storm water.

Manila could very well benefit from green roofs. Aside from helping reduce floods, green roofs also help make the area more pleasant, not only for the building owner and tenants but also for higher building occupants as they view green landscapes below them. This is in contrast to present conditions where unsightly machine rooms and water tanks dominate the city roof tops.

In the final analysis, preserving open green spaces and putting up green roofs atop buildings, and other natural remedies can only partly solve the problem of flooding. What we really need to do is change our lifestyle by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from our factories, homes and cars. Unless we do this, global warming will continue and the possibility of more flooding will continue.

For comments or inquiries, e-mail amadodejesus@gmail.com.

One Serendra: an eye for detail

DISCERNING HOMEOWNERS CREATE DIStinction by paying close attention to detail. From choosing the developer to deciding on the location, to carefully selecting the features and amenities of a home, the smallest particulars receive utmost consideration.

Every piece of material inside a home—whether it's as visible as the living room floor or as humble as the handle of a cabinet door—must belong to a vision, each being an essential contributor to a living space that's private, secure and comfortable. Every aspect experienced outside the home as well—from maintenance and security services to the prestige of a developer's reputation—must add value to the home.

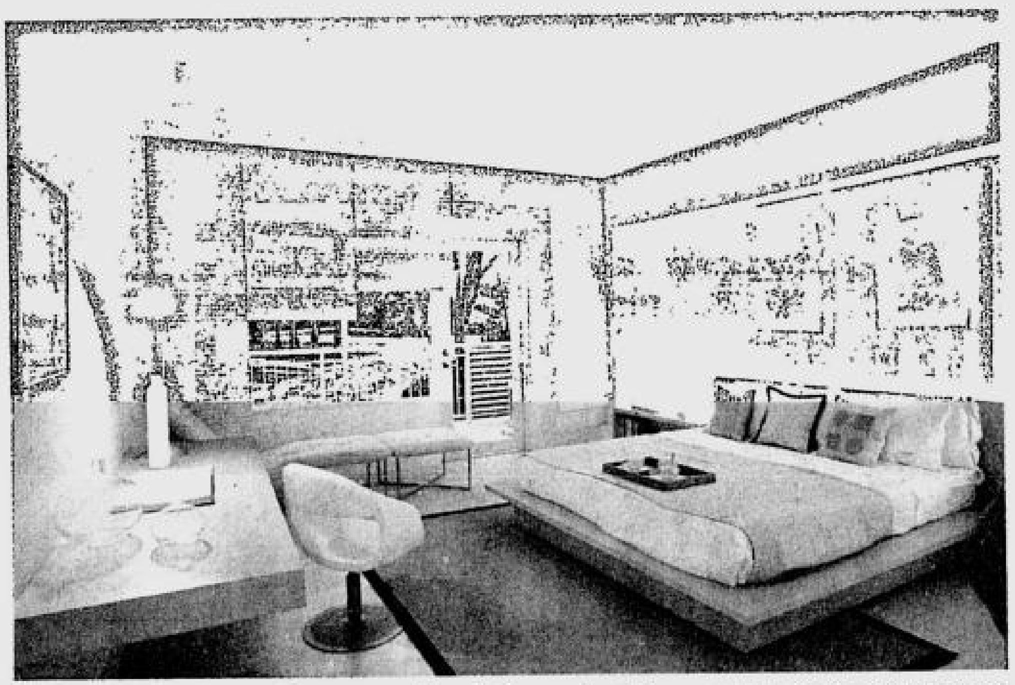
Garden residential condo

Ayala Land Premier's One Serendra is a residential condominium development that meets all these requirements and more. One of the country's most highly anticipated residential developments today, One Serendra is dubbed a "garden residential condominium" due to its sprawling greenery and open spaces. Most importantly, it offers every discriminating condominium buyer the chance to experience home life in exquisite detail.

According to Kate Ilagan, head of Ayala Land Premier's residential buildings, One Serendra is perfect for meticulous condo shoppers who desire quality of life on all levels, and who understand the added benefits of paying a slight premium for it. "If you're not the type to settle for condominium units that are 'good enough,' you will love One Serendra," she says. "It has wider space and it is masterplanned to the tiniest detail. Everything is representative of the premier lifestyle, where nothing is out of place."

One Serendra units boast of distinctive details such as bath tubs, walk-in closets, private patios and lanai areas, and only the highest quality finishes of wood flooring and natural stone countertops—luxuries usually found or afforded only in upscale single-detached homes or bungalows, or in comparable luxury high-rise developments abroad. Add to that two telephone lines per unit, a dedicated audio-video guest annunciator and cable TV systems. One Serendra takes nothing for granted; rather, it reflects the Ayala Land Premier pedigree in every area of the units, while other developments use standard designs and off-the-shelf materials.

A pleasing uniformity and streamlined appearance is achieved by keeping provisions for appliances, airconditioning and utilities hidden from view. There are utility decks with areas for drying laundry in selected units and exhaust systems for all bathrooms and kitchens. On the outside, the building features unique Filipino *bahay-na-bato* architecture and lush suburban landscape that's in a league of its own. Fully automatic sprinkler and smoke detection system, 100 percent power backup and ample elevator assignments per building provide a total stress-free environment.



ONE Serendra units are the most spacious in the condominium market, offering a freedom of living comparable to that of single-detached houses.

Aftersales attention

Moreover, under the care of Ayala Land Property Management, residents of One Serendra can also expect impeccable aftersales attention long after unit turnover, with such services as a valet, concierge and 24-hour security. As in all other Ayala Land communities, AMPC shall provide personalized service and property maintenance to all homeowners and ensure that the value of their units are enhanced over time.

"Residents are generally pleased with their units, but in rare cases where it's needed, APMC does minor repairs and even offers assistance in the application for utilities," Ilagan explains. "In the real estate business, the property manager by itself is already unique, yet APMC is even more valuable because it employs licensed professional employees, constantly trains its manpower, has strategic partnerships with utility companies, and utilizes corporate programs and structured systems. Its comprehensive set of services will be available to residents of One Serendra all the time."

Luxury of space

Truly, it is such attention to the little details that spell the One Serendra difference. It is Ayala Land Premier's luxurious vision of suburban living situated within the Serendra development—a distinctive, sprawling garden condominium complex spanning all of 12 hectares in Bonifacio Global City the Philippines' newest premier business district.

One Serendra offers a luxury of space with its bigger unit sizes and low-density environment, together with themed gardens and country club-like amenities such as an exclusive spa. It is also a pedestrian-friendly community, with car-free areas where children can roam freely. Offering genuine suburban living at the heart of the metropolis, One Serendra is ideal for people who want the added benefits of exclusivity, privacy, comfort and convenience from the expertise and experience of Ayala Land Premier in building communities that hold value over time.

For further details, call 889-1SER (1979), e-mail oneserendra@ayalalandpremier.com or visit www.oneserendra.com. Model units are available for viewing at the Serendra Sales Pavilion on 26th St. in Bonifacio Global City daily from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

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100 buildings coming up in Bonifacio Global City

IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS, the number of people living and doing business in Bonifacio Global City (BGC) will dramatically increase. At present, a hundred or so buildings are being planned, constructed or have been completed.

Says Fort Bonifacio Development Corp. (FBDC) head for commercial operations Jun Bisnar: "Construction and development activities are in full swing. Every year, large increments are added to our daytime population of office workers and full-time residents as well as to the number of visitors with the completion of each project and building."

Preferred location

Now the preferred location of project developers, Bonifacio Global City is a self-contained area with a superior location. Its residential condominiums and office buildings enjoy a quick take-up rate, according to Bisnar. "Even overseas buyers are well aware that BGC will be the business district of the future."

Alongside the vertical developments, horizontal developments including underground civil works are keeping pace with the growth of Bonifacio Global City. This includes the installation of underground drainage systems, water and sewage distribution lines, fiber-optic cabling network, and underground lines for liquefied petroleum gas and electric power. Overhead power lines are things of the past in Bonifacio Global City.

Land development

The city's road and infrastructure network will further be expanded with the completion of Bonifacio Triangle, a five-hectare section of the city near the North Gate on Kalayaan Avenue. Since the start of the year, land development within the City Center has also been prioritized by FBDC in terms of funding.

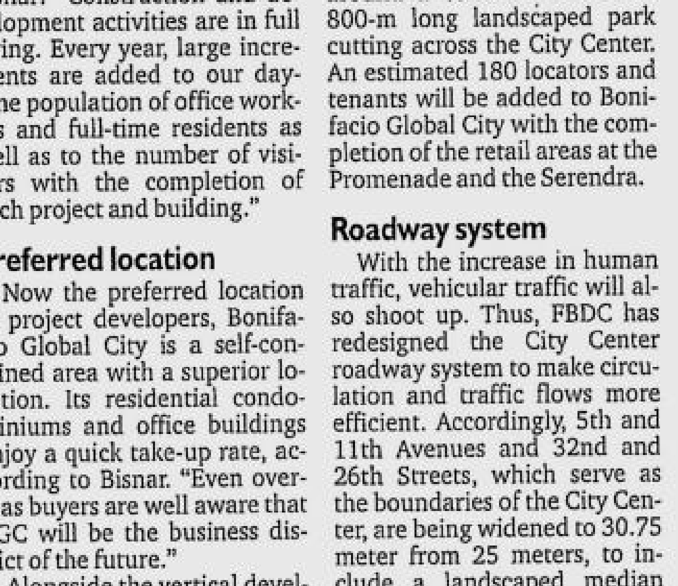
In anticipation of the increase in critical mass in the business district, the Retail and Office Promenade will be completed and opened before the year ends. Retail stores, well-known brands and dining establishments, will be built around a 40-meter wide and 800-m long landscaped park cutting across the City Center. An estimated 180 locators and tenants will be added to Bonifacio Global City with the completion of the retail areas at the Promenade and the Serendra.

Roadway system

With the increase in human traffic, vehicular traffic will also shoot up. Thus, FBDC has redesigned the City Center roadway system to make circulation and traffic flows more efficient. Accordingly, 5th and 11th Avenues and 32nd and 26th Streets, which serve as the boundaries of the City Center, are being widened to 30.75 meter from 25 meters, to include a landscaped median and a four-meter exclusive bus lane. "The exclusive bus lanes will become part of a transit system that will directly link BGC to Metro Manila's light rail systems at Edsa and the Makati Central Business District," Bisnar explains.

In a move to make BGC more pedestrian-friendly, the transit stops of the shuttles will be no more than a 10-minute walk from all points within the City Center.

While most of the buildings that have been completed are residential projects, office and commercial developments are catching up quickly. "We are beginning to see a balanced live-work-play environment taking shape. Bonifacio Global City will redefine people's perceptions of business centers," he notes.



THE RETAIL and office promenade will be the centerpiece of Bonifacio Global City where close to 100 buildings are in the process of being planned, constructed or have been completed.

New stops, new thrills at Westgate Center Alabang

THIS YEAR IS TURNING INTO A VERY EXCIting year for Westgate Alabang, the upscale development project of Filinvest Alabang Inc.

Considered to be a prime destination in the south, Westgate has attracted young professionals and families searching for the perfect marriage between a commercial and lifestyle center.

New establishments

For the second half of 2006, Westgate announces the opening of several new establishments.

This month, guests may visit RMSM Car Care Services for a wide selection of car accessories and professional auto repair services. Dive enthusiasts will get a pleasant surprise at the Pacifica Dive Shop, with its large collection of diving equipment, diving and swimming ware and accessories.

October sees the opening of Golf Bay Central, an all-service golf retail center. Golf aficionados can purchase brand-new equipment and accessories or have their existing clubs repaired or custom fitted to their specifications, all in the comfort of Westgate Alabang.

Japanese food

Sushi-ya restaurant opens its doors to the Westgate regular in November, as those with a palette for Japanese food will surely flock and enjoy a variety of Japanese culinary dishes that will satisfy the taste buds of anyone craving for a little taste of the orient with a contemporary twist.

Melo's Steakhouse will finally give the south a taste of real steak in December. The home of certified Angus Beef and other steak recipes, Melo's Steak House will be the steak restaurant in this part of Metro Manila. Its opening will further affirm Westgate's position as the premier lifestyle destination in the south.

Westgate Alabang is on Commerce Avenue, Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa City.

Changing our perception of today's bathrooms

By Charles E. Buban

TODAY'S BATHROOMS ARE BEING designed and built to be a source of luxury and relaxation.

Add to this the fact that bathrooms add more to a home's value and it's no wonder why more and more people are spending more and more time and money to create a sort of a retreat and sort of pride.

"Since it is the one place in the home where one is likely to be alone, designers nowadays are creating the perfect chamber where one could bask in luxury as well as functionality. At Siam Mariwasa Toto Inc., maker of Toto brand of world-class quality bathroom fixtures, this philosophy is even taken more seriously," company sales and marketing manager Gary Bogarin said.

'Destressing'

Bogarin explained that as one breaks free of life's everyday hustle and bustle, today's generation of bathrooms should be all about "destressing." In fact, in higher-end homes, bathrooms have turned to more than just an extension of the home or rooms, becoming more defined as a result.

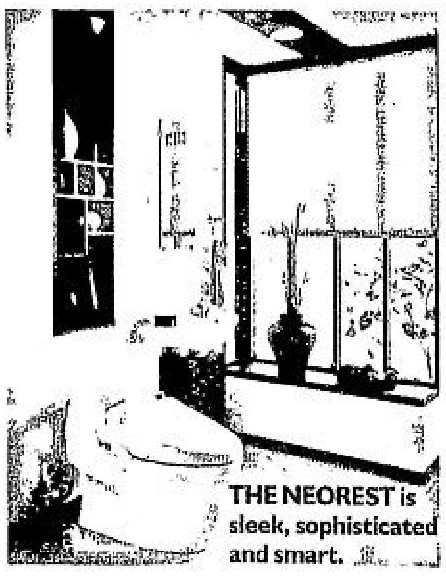
"Which is why, the company is beefing up its already formidable 2006 lineup with additional bathroom packages namely Avante Suite, Excelsior Suite as well as Icon series of faucets and showers and Console lavatories," he related.

While Avante Suite boasts of unique blend of simplicity, flair and elegance as evidenced by its sweeping round contour designs, the Excelsior Suite on the other hand creates an aura of exclusivity, thanks to its sharp distinct lines and unique shapes.

The Icon series offers unique contours that is characterized by pure sculptured forms and flat surfaces—hallmarks of minimalist design.

Aside from bathroom packages, Siam Mariwasa Toto recently introduced a technologically advanced toilet that features smart sensor operation, integrated washlet, and revolutionary cyclone flush engine.

"Packing the maximum number of technological advances into such a small package, the Neorest is destined to be the 'most sought after' fixture for anyone wanting to have a fully automated and intelligent bathroom," Bogarin said.



THE NEOREST is sleek, sophisticated and smart.

How advanced is this toilet? With the mere touch of its wireless remote, the seat of the Neorest automatically rises and when the individual walks away, it automatically flushes while the seat lid closes as if on cue.

It also integrates Toto's multitask technologies including a feature that provides gentle front- and back-aerated warm water spray (which can be regulated for preferred water pressure and temperature), oscillating and pulsating spray massage, warm air dryer, heated seat and power catalytic deodorizer.

"With Toto's Cyclone Rush Engine technology, the Neorest boasts of a revolutionary three-stage computer-controlled flush engine and an innovative diverter valve that channels incoming water, so it is not released directly from the main water source, thus eliminating noise and splash," Bogarin said.

No wonder, the Neorest has been the toilet of choice of several top celebrities including Brad Pitt, J. Lo, Cameron Diaz, Charlie Sheen and Will Smith.

11 years

"With Toto's 11 years of presence in the Philippines the company has dedicated itself to the art of creating sophisticated, high-performance products that are as exceptional as they are comfortable. The Neorest is just one of the clear proofs of Toto's relentless pursuit of excellence," Bogarin assured.

The company is also inviting architects, interior designers, contractors, property owners and developers to its event called The Bath Space 2007, a private viewing of the latest and most technologically advanced bathroom fixtures, slated on Oct. 19-20 at Kamia 1 and 2 of Edsa Shagri-La Hotel's ground floor Garden Wing in Mandaluyong City.

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CrossWinds on the rise

BRITTANY VP Rodel Racadio (in blue shirt) leads the ceremonial laying in of the time capsule that contains the architectural plan of CrossWinds Grand Quartier Tower 1 during the recent groundbreaking ceremonies. Assisting him is consultant architect Carmelo Casas of Recio + Casas Architects.

ADMIRING NATURE'S UNPARALLELED beauty is still the most relaxing activity that one can pursue. It eases all worries and provides stimulation for creative solutions to many of life's challenges. It does not come as a surprise that urban dwellers trek to Tagaytay every so often to clear the mind and receive nature's gift of inspiration.

Surrounded by such breath-taking landscapes, maverick real estate developer Brittany Corp. has found the means for its CrossWinds residents to better appreciate nature's masterpiece in Tagaytay. The Swiss-inspired property is literally on the rise with its Grand Quartier Tower 1 and 2.

Very interesting property

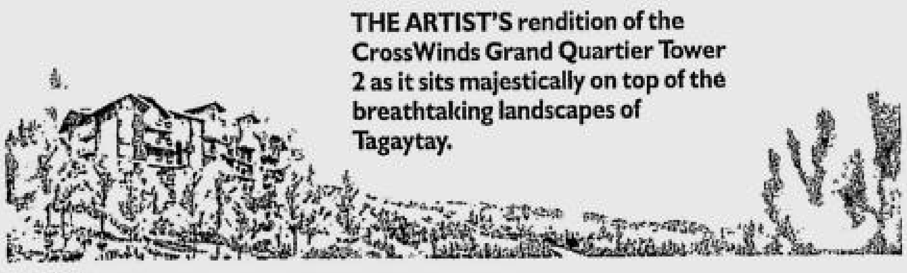
"CrossWinds has always been a very interesting property for Brittany Corp. to develop," said Brittany president Jing Serrano. "We have a commitment to nature and have worked very hard to guarantee that it is protected within our perimeter. Yet at the same time, we would also like to have more people enjoy nature's bounty.

"To resolve this challenge, we are now developing mid-rise structures that would open more units for those who wish to enjoy Tagaytay's breathtaking landscape, provide a unique vantage point to view this incredible sight, while ensuring that the structure's architecture blends well with the natural environment," she added.

Launched in 2005, the Grand Quartier Tower 1 recently had its groundbreaking to signal the start of construction. Offering a choice of studio units or one- to three-bedroom units, residents can enjoy the Swiss lifestyle that brings back memories of Christmas and the warmth of a family.

Studio units range from 39 to 46 square meters while 1- to 3-bedroom units range from 41 to 189 sq m. The Grand Quartier Tower 1 also offers convertible units from studio to 1-bedroom units or 1-bedroom units to 2-bedroom units without additional cost. Packages range from P2.8 to P11.7 million.

CONSULTANT architect Carmelo Casas of Recio + Casas Architects (far right) and some Grand Quartier unit owners are ready with their shovels to seal in the time capsule during the groundbreaking ceremonies for CrossWinds Grand Quartier Tower 1.



THE ARTIST'S rendition of the CrossWinds Grand Quartier Tower 2 as it sits majestically on top of the breathtaking landscapes of Tagaytay.

Tower 2 launch

With the success of the first Tower, Brittany recently launched the Grand Quartier Tower 2. These mid-rise towers offer residents the personal space they value amid the serenity of greens and the calming scent of pine trees. Here, one goes to sleep at night under a canopy of brightly shining stars—completely unobstructed by smog and other pollution—and awakens to the sweet scent of flowers mingling with the fresh aroma of pine trees.

Just like the rest of the CrossWinds property, The Grand Quartier 1 and 2 take inspiration from Swiss architecture. Elements such as overhanging eaves, wood patterns, wide balconies all set against a lush green landscape provide a haven where one can truly feel at home away from home.

Amenities at the CrossWinds also include peak gardens, swimming pool, gazebos, a view deck, nature trails and shaded walkways. Other facilities and conveniences are high-speed Internet connection, underground cabling for power, communications and CATV.

"Nature has always provided phenomenal inspiration for every possible challenge. At Brittany Corp., we have taken this to heart and CrossWinds serves as an exemplary illustration of how one can develop a property while respecting the environment," Serrano said.

For property previews, please call 850-2868 or 850-3084, or visit www.brittany.com.

Will RP property . . .

From page B2-1

dia cover foreign countries it is because there is negative news. The exceptions would be a major entertainment, cultural or sporting event," he e-mailed.

Negative publicity

Therese Y. Kinney, 33, engineer in the States who plans to retire at 65 but not in the States, said that "most press about the Philippines was mostly negative, whether it be about violence, too much politicking, or corruption in the government," she e-mailed.

She added that she gets news from the US local dailies on the Internet.

"It would be wonderful if the Philippines could land a spot in the travel section of CNN, airline magazines, or any other top-notch travel magazines. It would be a good opportunity for good publicity," Kinney added.

She countered, however, that life in the Philippines is more relaxed, as "there is a much better sense of community, and I would be closer to family."

Limited info

Ormond described the filproperty web page as "very nice" but that it had "limited" information.

"I think it takes a lot more to make a life-altering decision. For instance, I think regular TV commercials, good press and personal recommendations are primary, and the website will serve to augment that," he added.

Will the website help "sell" the Philippines to potential foreign retirees and *balikbayans?*

Said Kinney: "Perhaps. Aside from the lush beauty of the surroundings, developers have to ensure there is infrastructure which foreigners take for granted—clean water, good and accessible medical care, roads, accessibility to areas of commerce, good law enforcement, security."

Paolo Abba, 34, an Italian social worker in the Addictions field, Stockwell Project, National Health Service London, United Kingdom, said the website is "okay."

"But I don't think there's any doubt that Filipinos working abroad would want to go back and retire in their homeland."

Good move

He said that the idea to focus on foreign "retirees" is a good move for the country. "I think incentives such as the 'leave to stay permanently' is a very good proposition, without the hassles of leaving the Philippines every five years or so."

Abba, whose Filipino wife Rochelle is a nurse in London, said he would consider retiring in the Philippines, and definitely not in the United Kingdom.

"I am considering retiring in the Philippines but mainly because I would like to live there by the time my son Totoy is of school age."

Dennis T. Mercado, 49, a business consultant in Canada who plans to retire at 60 in Canada, stressed that before thinking of retiring in the Philippines seriously, he wants to know how good the health system here will be.

His main concern is by the time he retires, there might not be good nurses in the Philippines anymore as the good ones are all abroad. His decision would also be dependent on the crime rate in the country.

Vivette Catipon, 47, who is planning to work until she's about 70 years old, finds the website "very impressive," but because her children were born and raised in California, she would no longer consider retiring in the Philippines.

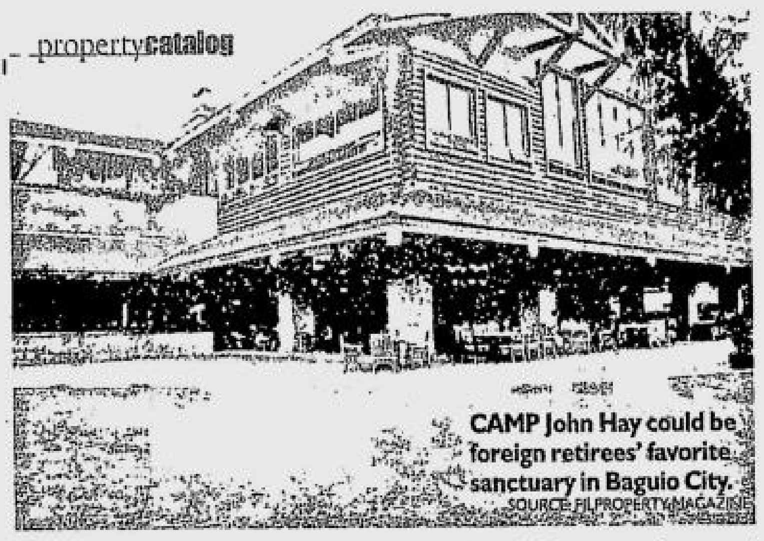
"We have gotten accustomed to the way of life here and simply love California."

Ma. Cristina Magallanes, 32, a teacher in Virginia, said she wants to retire in her mid to late 40s.

"Yes, I want to spend my retirement years in the Philippines because there is no place like home and with those properties that the different investors offer, I think it would be nice to own one of those," she said.

"I received and view news about the Philippines through online news. Some of the news makes a bad impression but some create a good example for other countries," she added.

propertycatalog



CAMP John Hay could be foreign retirees' favorite sanctuary in Baguio City.
SOURCE: FILPROPERTY MAGAZINE

Real estate . . .

From page B2-1

multiple-entry visa that entitles the holder to multiple entry privileges with the right to reside permanently in the Philippines.

The destinations, developments in housing, healthcare and developers' houses, condominiums and resort accommodations and current PRA-accredited facilities in Baguio, Bulacan, Tagaytay, Bicol, Calabarzon, NCR, SBMA, Clark, Pampanga, Mindoro, Cebu, Palawan and Boracay were featured.

Photos of Cebu del Sur are splashed on its pages. It is marketed as silver home estates for foreign retirees. It relates how Rep. Simeon Kintanar and the mayors of 15 municipalities teamed up to push for Cebu del Sur as a "retirement haven region." It highlight the region's white sand beaches and coral reefs, island resorts, four district hospitals and the Cebu international airport.

Chester Place in Dasmariñas, Cavite, for instance, was cited as a "retirement village" a residential subdivision that features added service such as medical, resort, culinary and entertainment venue for residents and retirees.

Campo Verde, a residential subdivision with its view of Mount Makiling in Laguna province, was cited as having a medical hospital nearby in partnership with St. Francis Cabrini Medical Center and the Professional Village Management Group that would handle full concierge service, full activities programs and manicuring of its public gardens.

Affordability

PRA and its private counterpart Philippine Retirement Inc., composed mostly of property developers, believe that affordability is one of the key issues that attract retirees to consider retiring in a specific location abroad.

Asked if glossy photos of destinations in the country really captured the actual look, PRI director Noel Gonzales said that for several years, developments have already improved as a result of tight competition.

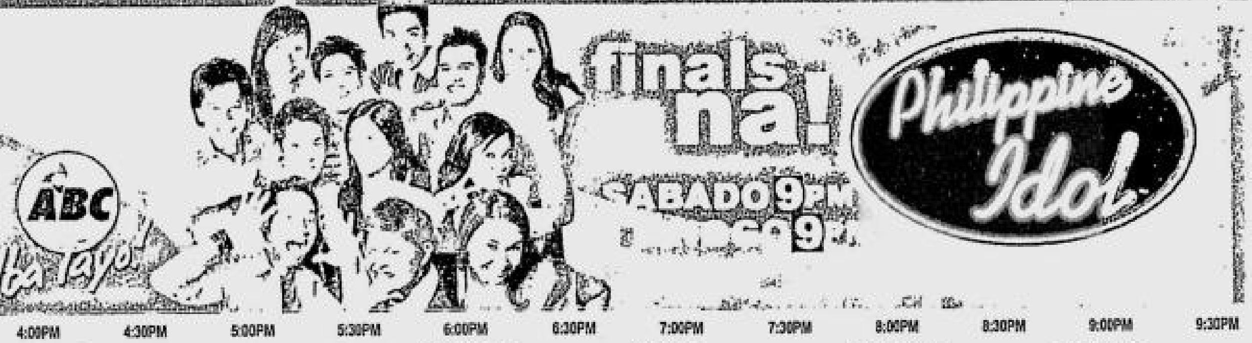
"These are the actual look of the developments ... the developers try to outdo each other now in terms of color, amenities, features, materials and building styles."

Key flagship project

President Macapagal-Arroyo recently declared the retirement industry as a key flagship project.

Gonzales said that because of this, a retirement desk will be designated in the airports for faster processing. Retirement villages will be given incentives. Tesda training modules will be created for service training specific for retirees such as caregiving, househelping, driving/transporting, and nursing.

INQUIRER TV GUIDE
Saturday, September 30, 2006



ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5	Kid's TV	[illegible] Ring Kasio		Eugene Tejada Fundraiser				Letty La Mas Fea		Teka Mona		Ripley's Believe It Or Not		Philippine Idol			Gumaras		Vote For Me
ABS-CBN 2		Nagmamahal, Kapamilya		Let's Go		Star Magic Presents		Komiks		John En Shirley		TV Patrol World	XXX		Pinoy Dream Academy		Aalog alog		Sports Unlimited
AXN		National Security				WRC 2006: Cyprus		Ultimate Guinness World Records	E Buzz	The Ultimate Fighter (Season II)		The Contender (Season II)		House (Season II)		Numb3rs (Season 2)		Supernatural (Season I)	
Cartoon Network		Camp Lazlo	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Powerpuff Girls	Robotboy	Teen Titans	The Batman	Justice League Unlimited	The Flintstones [illegible]			The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	Power Rangers [illegible] Gundam Seed Destiny	Gundam Seed Destiny	The Simpsons	Harvey Birdman (10:45PM)	Justice League	The Batman
Cinema One	Pinay Pie				Exodus				Sigaw				S2pid Luv				Sandalang [illegible]		
Cinemax	Killing Time (2:25 PM)			The Shadow				Subzero (5:55 PM)			Murder 101			Night Falls On Manhattan				Blind Justice (10:50PM)	
CNN	Next@CNN	World News	Inside The Middle East/CNN Business Traveller/Global Office/Global Challenges	World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	World News	Living Golf/[illegible] Art of Life	World News	World Sport	World News	Inside The Middle East/CNN Business Traveller/Global Office/Global Challenges	CNN Presents/Quest	Next@CNN	Talk Asia	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart
Crime/Suspense		Masterminds	Forensic Files	Profiler		Psychic Detectives	Body Of Evidence	What Should You Do?		Prison Break/ Bones		Prison Break		E-Ring					
Discovery Channel				History		Power Zone				Perfect Disaster		Deadliest Catch				A Haunting		Perfect Disaster	
Disney Channel	Art Attack/ Billy & Buddy	Totally Spies		Kim Possible	Lilo & Stitch	Martin Mystery/ Hannah Montana	American Dragon	Emperor's New School	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	Mr. Bean/ Hannah Montana	Wonderful World Of Disney			Mr. Bean	Totally Spies/ Hannah Montana	Kim Possible	Martin Mystery	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN		Major League Baseball Thursday						2006 Streetball	Motorsport Asia	LPGA Golf State Farm Classic 3rd Rd			In The Driver's Seat	Major League Baseball Friday					
ETC		Everwood 2		Friends 10	Will & Grace 4	Veronica Mars 2		The O.C.3		Beauty And The Geek 2		Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		Saturday Night Live		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
ETC 2nd Avenue		Trading Spouses		Today Show - 1 Hour Version		Dateline		The Biggest Loser 2		NBC Nightly News	Hollywood One On One	Skating With Celebrities		Inside The Actor's Studio		ER		NBC Nightly News	WSJR
EWTN	Visionaries, Mystics & Stigmatists	Chaplet Of Mercy/ Angelus	Image Of God	Adventures In Odyssey	Rosary With Mother Angelica	Knights Of St. Michael	Catholic Compass		Life Is Worth Living	The World Over Encore		Daily Mass		Holy Land Rosary/ Angelus	The Word Was Made Flesh	Voices On Virtue	Backstage	Life on The Rock Encore	
Fox News		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Special Report With Brit Hume		Fox & Friends Saturday						Bulls & Bears	Cavuto On Business	Forbes On Fox	Cashin' In
GMA 7	Startalk				Wish Ko Lang (4:20 PM)		Fantastikids (5:20 PM)		Pinoy Pop Superstar		Bitoy's Funniest Videos (7:20 PM)		Kapuso Mo, Jessica Soho	Imbestigador (9:05 PM)			Hokus Pokus (10:20PM)		Showbiz Stripped
Hallmark Channel		Power & Beauty			Finder's Choice (4:45 PM)				The Long Way Home				Moby Dick			Moby Dick (10:15PM)			
HBO			We're No Angels			Bobby Jones Stroke Of Genius (5:15 PM)					Richie Rich			Bewitched			Entourage 19: [illegible] Lagoon	Entourage 20: [illegible] (11:05PM)	Twelve Monkeys
Hero TV	Mon Colle Knights	Shaider	Mask Rider Ryuki	Gransazers	Shaman King	Tales At North Hills High	Chrono Crusade	DNAngel	Forzal Mario	Love Hina	Super Doll Licca	G3	Voltes V Evolution	Hero TV Theatrixx			Mon Colle Knights	Shaman King	Tales At North Hills High
IBC 13		Home Shopping Network		EZ Shop	Auto Review	EBC Earth Files		Pangarap Kong Jackpot		EBC Earth Files		Japan Video Topics		Bitag		Bilyaras Sabong Sports	Medtalk With Dr. Z		
JackTV	My Name Is Earl	Always Sunny In Philadelphia	Arrested Development	Last Comic Standing		The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	X-Men	X-Men	The Batman	Justice League	Wwe Raw				Weekend At The DL	Reno 911	Insomniac With Dave Attell	Manshow
Lifestyle Network	Life Is Great With Brooke Burke	HGTV Special		Sheila Bridges: Designer Living	Radical Sabbatical	Simply Wine With Andrea Immer	Inside Dish	My Country, My Kitchen	Emeril Live		Iron Chef America		Merge		Style Star	I Do Diaries		E! Extra: Jackie Collins Presents: Bad & The Beautiful	
MTV Philippines	MTV Hits	MTV Arena	Diary Of Black Eyed Peas	The 2006 MTV Video Music Awards				Cribs	My Own	The Hills	8th & Ocean	MTV Live Spongecola		Diary of Hoobastank	MTV Hits	MTV Hits		Jams	Rockola
MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Bandarito	MYX News	MYX Presents		Take 5	Radio MYX	MYXellaneous	Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Live!		Pinoy MYX Countdown				MYX Backtrax	MYXilog
National Geographic		Milestones: The Lost Film Of Diana Fossey		Edge of Universe: Planets from Hell		Edge of Universe: Killers in Space		Sea Hunters S4-03 [illegible]		Milestones: Supercroc		Ultimate Expe[illegible] Machines - Work		Seconds From Disaster: Tunnel Inferno		Seconds From Disaster: Flood at Stava Dam		No Borders: The Boy Who Plays on the Buddhas	
NBN		Teledyaryo Alas-Tres		Tara Noo Pilipino	The Working President	The Final Say: ChaCha		Lakbayan Ang [illegible] Pilipinas		Youth Voice-Debate		GSIS Member's Hour		Isa Hour On NBN		A.S.K.		Krusada Kontra Krimen	
Net 25	INC Chronicles (Filipino)	Quadriga	The Planet	Ang Mga Nagsi-Alis Sa Daang Daan		Ang Tamang Daan		Net 25 Weekend Report	DWTV Journal Weekend Edition	Tribe	Convergence	Ang Mga Nagsi-Alis Sa Daang Daan		Ang Pagbubuyag		Net 25 Weekend Report	In Focus	DWTV Journal Weekend Edition	Euromaxx
Nickelodeon	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	Zoey 101	Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide	The Fairly Odd Parents	Catscratch	The X's	Danny Phantom	Trollz	SpongeBob SquarePants	All That	Zoey 101	Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide	Dark Oracle/ Romeo!	Romeo!/ Naturally Sadie	All That	The Brothers Garcia: All Grown Up	The Fairly Odd Parents/ Told By Ginger	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Anno Ni Asedillo				Ikaw Lamang Ang Buhay Ko				Makagapos Na Puso				Malong Astig At Gamor				Lagi Kitang Mamahalin
Qtv		Lois And Clark		Galaxy Angels		Posh		The Return Of Wonder Woman		Ayllll Robot		Day-Off		Sabado Showdown				The Final Cut	
RPN 9		Go Negosyo		Biyaheng Langit	Badminton		Man & Machine	Just For Laughs		Wwe Raw		CSI: NY		Gabi Ng Pinoy Awards					
SBN 21								Barangay Ulating [illegible]		Sony Music Video		Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Shepherds Voice		Sony Music Video	
Solar Sports								WNCAA		NBA Greatest Game				Superfights [illegible] Vs Contreras				Phil. Bowling Tour Leg1 part2	
Sports Plus						Raceworld		Foxwoods World Poker Finals				Ultimate Fighting Championship: [illegible] Boardwalk				Valero Texas Open Highlights		Golf Today	Inside the PGA
Star Movies			The Wedding Date			Life Aquatic With Steve Zissou				Be Cool				Beauty Shop				Solo (10:50PM)	
Star World				Miami Vice		Philly		Sons & Daughters	The Drew Carey Show	One Tree Hill		TNA Xplosion				J.A.G		Mutant X	
Studio 23								Sports TV	The Contender	7th Heaven (7:15 PM)		The Bachelorette		Barkada Nights					Real Deal

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Home developers to hold annual meet

By Charles E. Buban

DEVELOPERS ALL OVER THE country will head to Davao City next week for the annual convention that hopes to enlighten if not resolve a number of important issues facing today's housing industry.

"This year's theme 'Housing Beyond Borders, Responding to Global Challenges' as well as 'Serbisyo Publiko na Tapat, Abot Kayang Pabahay ang Katapat' sum up what the association would like to accomplish in this year's convention," said Willie Uy, national president of the Subdivision and Housing Developers Association who in partnership with the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, organized the event.

The HUDCC is the national government arm for housing development while SHDA is the country's largest organization of private subdivision and housing developers.

The two-day SHDA-HUDCC National Developers Convention will be held at the Waterfront Insular Hotel on Oct. 5.

Government representatives

SHDA chair Marilu Alferez said the convention has invited the country's top executives and officials of the housing industry led by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Vice President and HUDCC chair Noli de Castro.

"President Arroyo is expected to deliver the keynote address on policies, programs and future thrusts on the housing industry as well as induct the new SHDA board of governors and officers," Alferez informed.

She added that the Vice President, for his part, is expected to announce important policies as he tackles future prospects of the country's National Shelter Program.

Other top officials expected to attend are Pag-Ibig Fund president and CEO Romero Federico Quimbo, Home Guaranty Corp. president Gonzalo Benjamin Bongolan, National Home Mortgage Finance Corp. president Jose Peter Sison, Philippine Retirement Authority chair Edgar Aglipay and Tourism Secretary Joseph Durano.

Foreign speakers

For the first time, SHDA invited foreign speakers mostly coming from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to discuss various topics: Thailand's Khan Prachuabmoh will discuss sustainable financing as provided by his company, the Government Housing Bank of Thailand where he is president; Malaysia's Ng Seing Liong, president of Real Estate Housing Developers' Association will talk on building systems while NK Tong, Bukit Kiara Properties group managing director will tackle high-rise housing in Malaysia.

Malaysia's Tourism Minister YBM Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor and Thailand's Tourism Minister Pracha Meleenont are also expected to grace the convention to talk on their respective country's tourism offensives.

"We would like to hear from our counterparts from the Asean region how are they doing there, what is the trend and developments happening in their respective countries. Our members could learn from them and perhaps, adopt some of their strategies here in the Philippines," explained Benirando Claudio, SHDA first VP and this year's convention chair.

Relevant to current needs

Claudio reminded that aside from these talks, the convention will be holding simultaneous workshop sessions.

"One workshop will tackle public utilities so expect representatives from the Meralco, Energy Regulatory Commission, Manila Water, National Water Resources Board to be there explaining new laws and regulations as well as other concerns. On the other hand, the other workshop will discuss foreclosed assets of the government and its possibility of being accessed by private developers," Claudio enumerated.

Uy explained that holding this year's event in Davao City, where around 500 developer-members are expected to attend, is in line with SHDA's thrust to get into the countryside where subdivision and housing development still has a lot of potential for growth.

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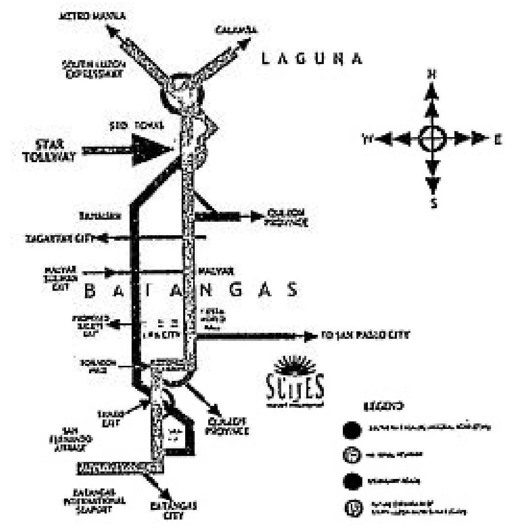

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Initially a strategy to transform the corporate properties to residential, commercial and industrial developments, Philtown properties grew from developing subdivisions in the suburbs to taking a leap at developing high-end residences in the city.

Starting out as developer of subdivisions, Philtown Properties, formerly known as RFM Property Holdings Inc. (RPHI), has brought itself up to providing top-notch condominium towers to those who desire a stylish lifestyle.

As more experience was acquired and core competencies in project management, sales and marketing were developed, Philtown embarked to building extravagant homes, coming up with Tagaytay Heights in Tagaytay City and One McKinley Place and the Fairways Tower, both in Global City Fort Bonifacio. With further success from these commendable projects, several luxurious residential spots, which lure homeowners to live the sophisticated and healthy lifestyle, were built. One of these is the Metropolitan with Sky Lofts, which was designed not only to provide its customers urbane residential units. Owning a unit here comes with playing rights to what will be the country's foremost sports club, the Metropolitan Athletic Club. (MAC). A magnificent view of Makati's breathtaking skyline is also at hand with Sky Lofts. Getting around the urban jungle, busy people need to find a perfect refuge from their grave responsibilities. Amidst the chaos that is Metropolis, come Philtown Properties – a property developer adept at building landmarks.

For inquiries, you may visit our model units at The Edge showroom, G/F One McKinley Place, Global City. You may also call us at 830-0455 to 57, 890-5711 to 14 or 0917-8536539 or email us at sales@philtown.net or visit our website www.philtown.net

About Philtown Properties

Philtown Properties engages in the development and selling of industrial estates, middle-income horizontal residential projects and a few high-end condominium projects. With over P4 Billion of land assets, the company is involved in several projects mostly located in Laguna and Batangas area, which is less than an hour away from Metro Manila. These projects include Evergreen subdivision, Glenwood Park, Ridgemount South, Makiling Hills, Woodlands and Tagaytav Heights. In Metro Manila, One McKinley Place, Fairways Tower, and Metropolitan with Sky Lofts are its vertical residential projects.

Philtown's Big Four

Building quality homes is an ardent task that should be put to heart. As it is bound to house busy people that undoubtedly lead a fast-paced life, comfort, accessibility and luxury should always be a constant element in constructing residential havens. Philtown Properties, the country's prime real estate developer, put all these things in mind. Coming up with its big four - One McKinley Place, Metropolitan with Sky Lofts, Fairways Tower and W.H. Taft Residences–it is geared up to giving the concrete jungle established landmarks.

Situated at the heart of the city's finest spots, the properties developed by Philtown have been catering to a number of top-notch clients. With its continued success in high-end real estate projects, Philtown is fast becoming the preferred developer in the Philippines. Its expertise on building first-rate homes for prime people embarks the company to the property developing pedestal.

W.H. Taft Residences, the company's newest project, is bound to give the busy street of Taft Avenue a much needed facelift. With its structure designed to create shadows that is sure to combat the metropolis' heat, aesthetics and functionality will be creatively merged as one.

The matrix of a great lifestyle is the pattern that Fairways Tower in Global City, Fort Bonifacio essentially follows. Located in an environment ideal for work, learning and leisure, this is the home of the city smarts. Spectacular views, stunning architecture and sensational interiors are just among the perks of owning a unit at Metropolitan with Sky Lofts. With its accessibility and affordability, not to mention its unique amenities topped off by an automatic membership toMetropolitan Athletic Club, it will definitely suit anyone's standard of living.

Sophistication come alive essentially depicts One McKinley Place in Global City, Fort Bonifacio. The concept behind its design boasts of brilliance and grandeur that gives new meaning to luxurious living. Philtown's first venture in high-rise luxury condominiums, this tower manifests the company's prowess in the field.

Building quality homes, comfort and luxury hubs and most importantly, landmarks – this is the Philtown thrust. With One McKinley Place, Metropolitan with Sky Lofts, Fairways Tower and W.H. Taft Residences to line the city's skies, no one will ever be lost again.

For inquiries, you may visit our model units at The Edge showroom, G/F One McKinley Place, Global City. You may also call us at 818-1977, 818-1266 and 818-2330, email us at sales@philtown.net or visit our website www.philtown.net

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Creative Director **Tim Yap**

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Super! Countdown
31 days 'til Halloween

masqueReigne

Super! exclusive
Regine Velasquez
bares it all page C2

See it first in Super!
Aubrey Miles and Ernie Lopez
join Amazing Race Asia
page D1

Tals Diaz
spins it
Out the window
page C4

Janine Dario and Paolo Reyes
gear up for
Oktoberfest
page D4

Produced by: TIM YAP Photography: STEVE TIRONA
Sittings editor: DAVID MILAN Styling: FREIDA DARIO
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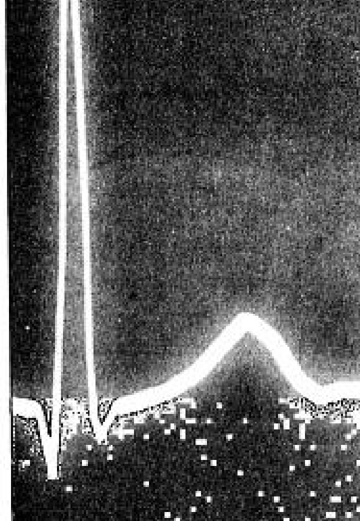

Your heart is the center of activity in your body. Every part of your system depends on it. If your heart is healthy, your entire body benefits. But if it's not, then your whole body suffers. Your heart is in charge of pumping life-giving blood to your entire body, providing nourishment and oxygen to all the cells in your tissues, organs, muscles and bones. The blood moves from the heart into your arteries, then into tiny tubes called capillaries and finally into the veins that lead back to your heart.

Although your heart is a powerful organ, it can be damaged by disease and poor living habits like smoking, an unhealthy diet, lack of exercise and stress. All these may weaken your body and hamper your blood circulation.

Ensure helps fight off the harmful effects of free radicals caused by these unhealthy habits. Its unique Heart Defense System creates a shield around your heart to help protect you from an attack.

Combined with proper diet and [illegible] it helps ensure [illegible] your heart pump life-giving blood [illegible] to the rest of your body.

[illegible]

Low cholesterol [illegible] free from plaque and cholesterol build-up [illegible] block the flow of blood.

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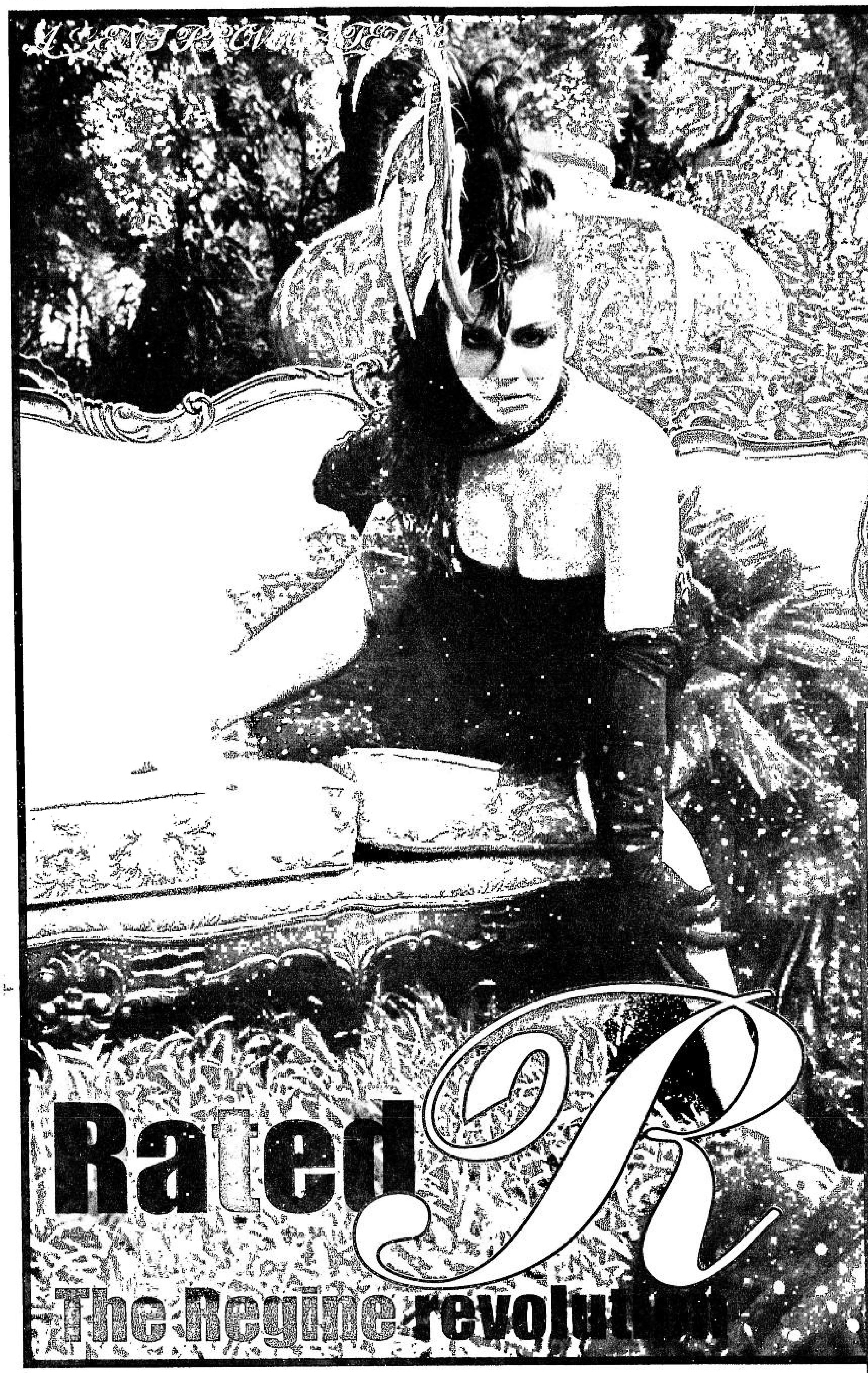

Rated R

The Regine revolution

MUSE OF SONG

1986 WAS A YEAR OF REVOLUTIONS. It was the year when our people kicked out a dictatorship that stifled our freedom. It was the year the first lady president stepped into power. And it was the year when the Filipino people heard the powerful voice of Regine Velasquez.

Tim Yap

Twenty years after the serenade, the courtship has not waned. This chanteuse is a part of the Pinoy singing subconscious. Her songs are perennial karaoke favorites and singing contest staples. Ask any tilt contender who they look up to and chances are, they are influenced by the ever-evolving Cher of the Philippines.

Her beginnings as undisputed Bagong Kampeon winner were stuff of legend. Her vocalization technique, a neck-deep immersion in the rivers of Bulacan have reached myth status. Her vocal range, decibels higher than heaven, is a test of infinity.

So infinite is this vocal spectrum that it becomes the climax of every performance. And her audience awaits every climax, eagerly anticipating the fireworks coming from the depths of her lungs.

Her own woman

She had arrived at the shoot 30 minutes earlier than everyone. Famous for her knack of not needing any makeup artist, she walks into the North Forbes mansion where the shoot was going to be held with her trademark concealer-heavy look, ready for her closeup to be shot by photographer Steve Tirona.

We had a different idea for this shoot though, and after clearing things up with her management, we proceeded to have the Shu Uemura husband and wife hair and makeup tandem of Ricky and Claire Diokno do their Super! Regine makeover.

Out came the cotton candy Marie Antoinette wig, Angelo Villanueva corsets, net stockings and Tessa Prieto-Valdes ballgowns as styled by Bora goddess Freida Dario. The team worked quietly. Every now and then she would still take the makeup brushes and efficiently apply it her way. There was this hushed reverence on the set while Regine was being primped, only to be broken when Regine looked at the mirror, smiled and said, "I look like a drag queen." A nervous chuckle signaled the start of the photo shoot.

In between takes, we talked in depth about anything and everything from her Louie Mamengo long gown phase to her supposedly turning down the role of Kim in Miss Saigon. "I didn't want to live in London on my own. I was young and still very much attached to my family."

Industry bull

When she warmed up she was really engaging, exuding the down-to-earth quality of someone who has worked all her life to get to and to stay where she's at now. I somehow sensed a certain physical tiredness, like she had enough of some things in the industry where she grew up. "People bull sh*t too much," she said.

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20 YEARS OF REGINE VELASQUEZ. The evolution of a singing legend—from provincial lass to

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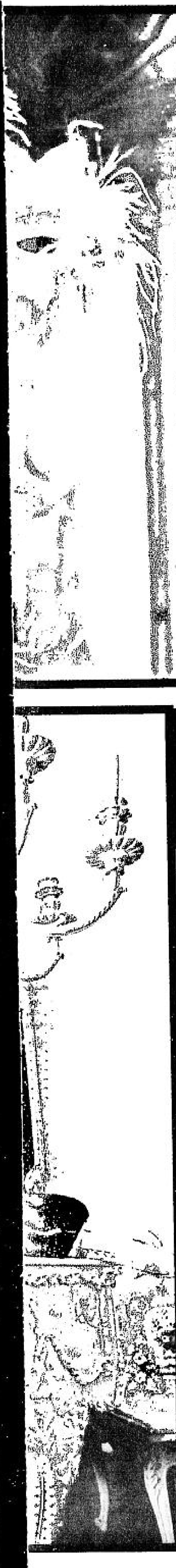

Super Regine says . . .

The thing about fame is that... you have no privacy.

The thing I love most about what I do is... it gives pleasure to a lot of people.

People might be surprised to know that... I can't live without *patis*.

The most important thing I've ever learned is that... money can't buy everything.

The worst thing that ever happened to me was that... Nothing. I consider everything that happened to me as a blessing.

And what taught this to me was... hardwork pays off.

My best ever outfit consisted of... anything plus my favorite Abercrombie and Fitch jeans.

My Super! Saturday night consists of... a bucket of popcorn, ice cold water and "Pretty Woman."

The soundtrack to my life would include... songbird

If I was invisible for a day, I would... go to every mall in Manila and shop till I drop.

The thing that makes me most angry is... I hardly get annoyed, but when I do, it's because something promised to me wasn't fullfilled.

If I was the most powerful person on earth... I would feed and clothe every street kid in the world.

The best thing about family is that... they're the most loyal and supportive people you can have.

When I'm gone, they'll probably say... (hopefully) I was a great performer that brought happiness to people.

If money was no option... I would bring my family to a trip around the world.

When I retire, I would like... to become a makeup artist

The world would be a much better place if... people learn to accept each other for who they are.

My hero is... my mom and dad

The thing that makes my life worth living is... my family

My greatest hope for the future is... better economy for the country

The worst thing somebody said about me was... that I was adopted

My favorite moments are... my every Sunday get-together with my family and *pamangkins*

My most embarrassing moment was when... my half-slip fell during one of my amateur competitions

I'm saving up for... my house

My biggest indulgence is... shoes and bags

My current state of mind is... Excited for my upcoming concert and movie

If someone would play me in my biopic it would be... either of my two closest friends in the industry: Pops or Jaya

I aspire to be... a successful record producer

Photography: Steve Tirona
Sittings Editor: David Milan
Styling: Freida Dario
Makeup: Claire Diokna of Shu Uemura
Hair: Ricky Diokno using Kiehl's Stylist Series
Special thanks to: Tessa Prieto-Valdes, Angelo Villanueva, Mary, Jon-Jon and Vicente Rufino

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ngth of a woman who has

had her fair share of battles. Her fighting spirit was of a warrior ready for war... anytime.

Growth as an artist

"I started singing what the record company wanted me to sing. And then I got old," she said, recalling her early years in the industry. Her self-deprecating puns endear her to her mass audiences. And even in her concerts at high-end venues, she never fails to show that side of her—the *probinsyana* who got lucky, the underdog who has done well. Visions of her winning the Asia Pacific Singing Contest and her dad Mang Gerry and former manager Ronnie Henares slide into the 20-year-old photo album.

"I've become very much involved in all aspects of producing my albums. I still like to experiment with my music style, work with various artists and composers." When talk shifted to her critics, she revealed a more vulnerable side. Suppressing what I thought were tears, she changed the topic of agitation and said, "I get upset when people criticize my singing. It's been 20 years since I started at *kung hindi ka naman si* Whitney Houston, *eh ano ang karapatan mo na pintasan ako? Sila kaya ang pakantahin ko dyan*."

Throughout the shoot, she owned every frame she entered. She played shy, vamped it up, exuded rage and flirted with the camera with a chameleon-like quality that echoed her various style evolutions. She was one of the few who could get away with changing her look every season, or every time she felt like it. There was even a time she felt like performing barefoot, so off went the shoes.

These days though, the songbird who sings about the Philippines confesses to a designer shoe fetish. "These days, I'm crazy about my shoes. You should see my collection."

Her own title

What she's not crazy about are labels—Concert Queen, Box Office Queen, Songbird, Maya Bird, etc. "I'm actually not comfortable with titles—I don't like the pressure."

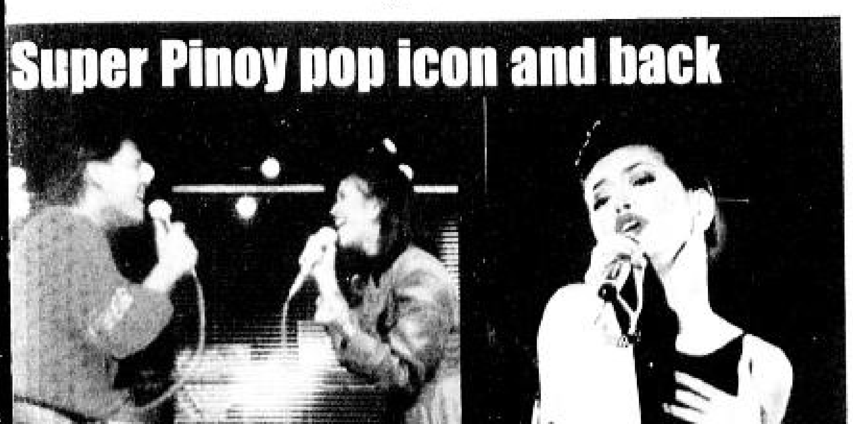
She glances at her makeup once again, retouches on her own, and declares proudly. "I'm still very much a *probinsyana*. I still go to Bulacan every day."

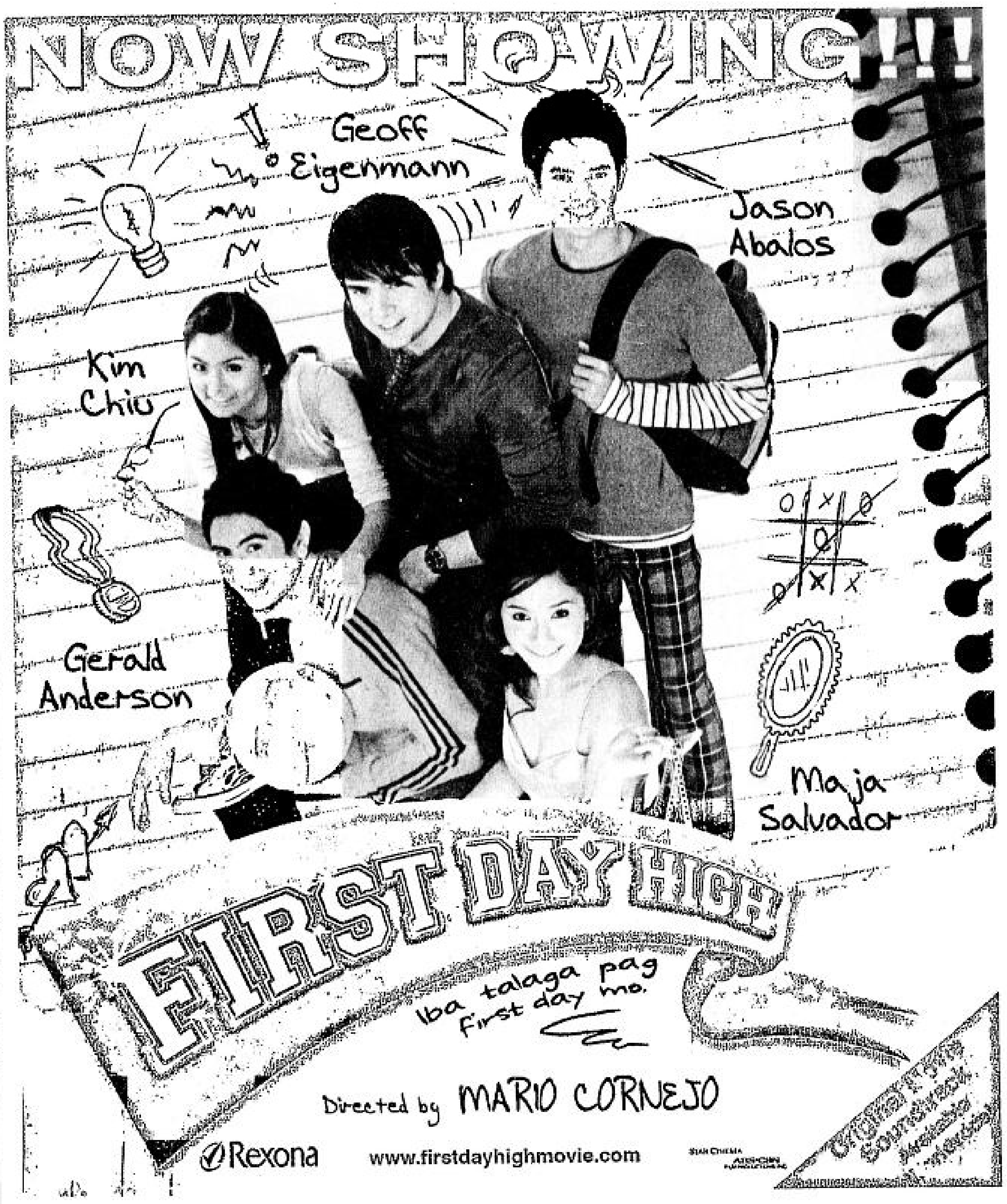
For somebody who has followed her career for the past two decades, I finally had the chance to see the soul behind the songs.

She is more than just the undisputed Bagong Kampeon. She is more than just Asia's Songbird.

She is Regine Velasquez. And that's good enough for her.

Super Pinoy pop icon and back





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MIX-MEDIA. Manual's RJ Ledesma, Tatler's Karla Alindahao, Circuit Asia's JR Isaac, Chalk's Bea Constantino and Super!'s very own Tals Diaz

iThink, therefore iDJ

The true confessions and delusions of a one-night only DJ

OUT THE WINDOW

Tals Diaz

A TEXT MESSAGE came in last week, to throw a pebble in my normally halcyon workday. It read: "R.I.P. DJ Tiesto 2006. Died in a car crash!" All of a sudden a tidal wave of texts deluged me thereafter, from panicked pals all over, as if Armageddon were at hand. A friend of mine even cried hysterically upon receiving the morose SMS. Jeez, I didn't even observe that reaction when the Guimaras oil spill happened! Then, a few hours later, the text proved to be a hoax, reminiscent of the false rumors of the untimely death of Moira Kelly ages ago, during the pre-text messaging era. The erroneous info of Tiesto's death was a practical joke published in a hoaky website, which looked like a legit global news source. When it was eventually established to be a nasty rumor, the collective sighs ensued, world order had been restored, the skies cleared and the birds began to sing once again. Hmmm ... perhaps there really is some truth to that modern cliché that "God is a DJ," and in this case, Tiesto had died and miraculously come back to life. Consummatum est.

Mixed media

You can imagine, then, that I thought it was an even bigger hoax when I was invited to be a DJ for one night. Specifically, to be a guest iDJ to compete in the "Media Mixology" kickoff party of Motorola's search for the new breed of celebrity DJs. Hmmm ... I ... DJ? Needless to say, I was amused, I was flattered, and because of the swirl of vodka tonics in my system, I was also crazy enough to say yes. I thought it was timely in fact, especially since a recent, terrible bout of depression had been remedied by the string of playlists I had thoughtfully created on my iPod, which once again affirmed the magnitude and significance of music in my life: As soul food and broken-spirit panacea.

I had no delusions though—I knew very well that us ragtag writers and editors who were selected for the event were merely the opening act for the real celeb spinners: Manila's retinue of models, TV stars, fashion mavens, and basically people with better complexions than mine, who are set to get their hands on the turntables in the coming weeks. But hey, I admit that the idea was a thrill; to play god for a night, or more like Moses on Sinai telling the people, these are my commandments, listen or get struck by lightning or something.

Call it a grand experiment of role-playing and playing house—I was also curious to find out what it would feel like to get the crowd shaking their boo-tays. (And okay, I really wanted to wear those too-cool giant headphones!)

Along with four other members (and buddies) from the publishing sphere, we were prepped up with a few questions about our musical styles and philosophies, and what essentially can make us, or anyone for that matter, a DJ in their own right. I thought that a DJ was essentially a modern world version of a storyteller. If songs were basically chapters of a musician's life, then relaying those stories, by seamlessly weaving them into melodic anecdotes for people to relate to, was what I believed defined one to be a good DJ. Like a storyteller, you have to get them to listen.

In that light, we were allotted twenty minutes of spindependence for the night. Meaning, I had to cram into twenty minutes all the music I had ever wanted to share while in the spotlight to express my musical inclinations. How then does one select from a vast aural library and chapters of life into those twenty minutes of fame (or failure)? And more importantly, was it taboo to play rock on the dance floor?

Electroclash and burn

So Saturday night came, and my fellow media guinea pigs JR Isaac of Circuit and Star, Bea Constantino of Chalk, Karla Alindahao of Tatler, and RJ Ledesma of Manual were equally as nervous and wondering just what the heck possessed us to nod to all this. Finally, we all just agreed to have fun (and not quit our day jobs), and just play music because we loved it.

When it was my turn on the stand, I ended up playing music that I knew most of the so-called partyphiliacs of Manila weren't too familiar with, but I believed they'd enjoy—electroclash. I was

indoctrinated into this genre some years back, when my best friend handed me a headset while we were bumming around a music store in Sydney. I was instantly hooked. What it is, it's a fusion of New Wave, punk and electronica, layered with dystopian themes, and lyrics with tongue pressed firmly in cheek.

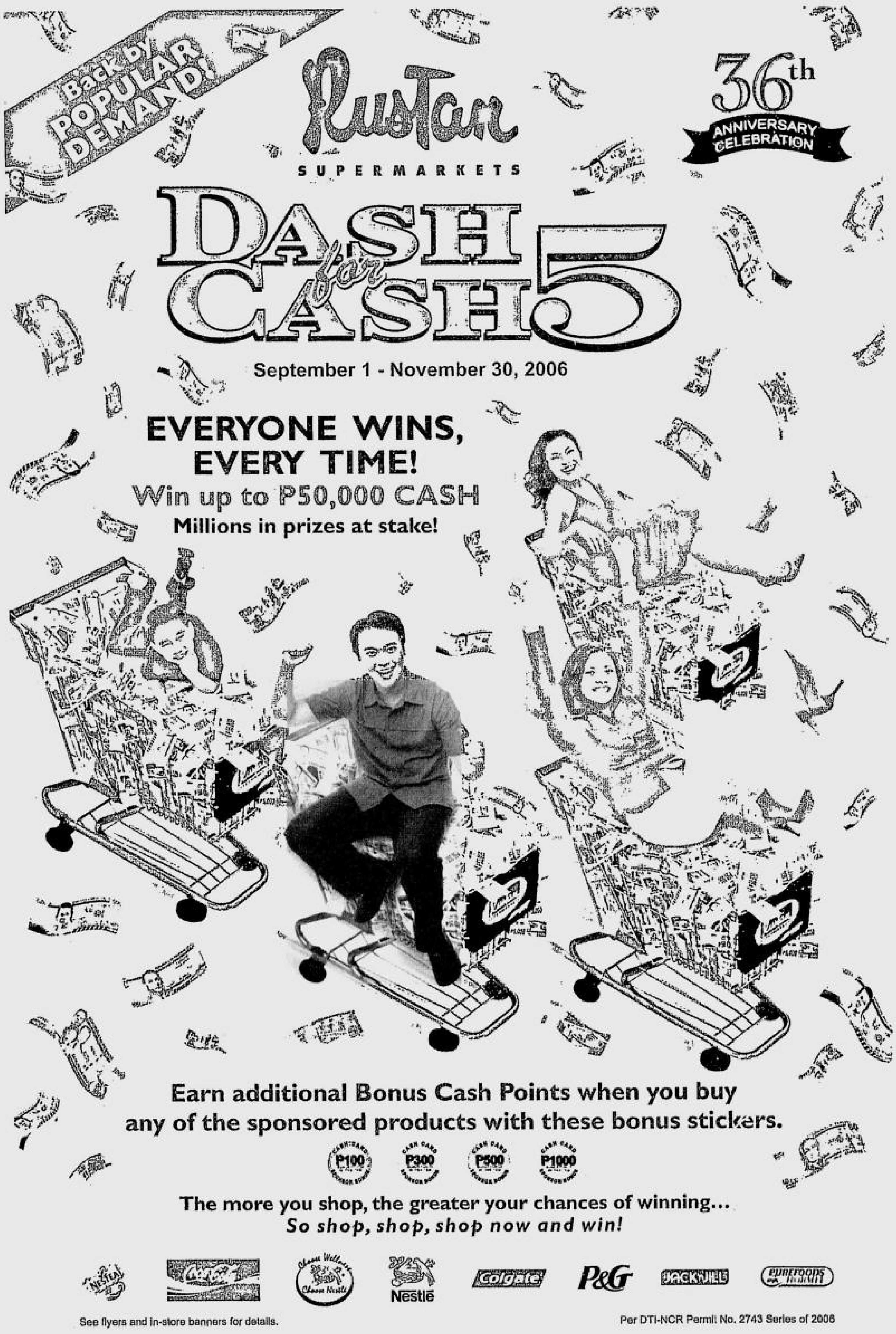
Some years back, a few of Manila's party organizers were in fact hosting electroclash parties, which likewise stressed on the vamp and camp fashion and attitude equated with this musical movement. I honestly don't know why it never really caught on, in spite of the fact that it embraced three decades of musical styles, New Wave, punk and electropop, but perhaps Manila's nocturnal set just really has a long-standing love affair with house and hip hop. No biggie.

Spin spin sugar

So playing god that night, I cranked up the volume on Fischerspooner, Ladytron and Goldfrapp, mixed in a bit of my *minamahal* Kylie, and of course, I just had to put in Aerosmith, to represent the rock and roll that will never die in my life. So it was different, but I was glad that I didn't have to bribe the crowd that night to cheer and get shaking. When strangers came up to me after and said they really enjoyed my set, well, I admit, that felt divine.

In the end, the big winner of the night was RJ Ledesma, who indulged the crowd with '80s favorites and campy treats that when provoked, you'd admit you actually liked them once upon a time ("Karma Chameleon"? Come on, admit it, ya even know the dance!). This just proved that Manila will really never tire of '80s music. All good, because if there was one thing I learned about this short-lived foray into the DJ-ing art, it's all about crowd connection. Simply put, the reward is in putting that smile (or laugh) on people's faces, when you've somehow played a note that somehow aligned with their inner sense of cool. Perhaps you really can't be that hoity-toity about music in this city, but I still believe that there is still a lot of space for musical evolution—I leave that up to the real DJs out there!

One thing's for sure, though, I will take the advice of a friend who was there that night, and that's for me not to quit my day job.



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ASIA'S PHIL. The Amazing Race Asian host Allan Wu.

Super 2
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PINOYS, get ready to root for Ernie and Jeena Lopez and cousins Aubrey Miles and Jacq Yu.

Look ma, two Pinoy teams!

Meet the contestants of The Amazing Race Asia–who will you be rooting for?

By Pam Pastor

WE'VE KEPT OUR MOUTHS shut long enough. Now we're here to spill great secrets.

And when we say secrets, we mean the identities of the contestants of The Amazing Race Asia, which will be aired later this year on AXN.

Yes, we have them all here—all ten teams competing for glory and US$100,000. Who are they? Where did they come from? Who should you root for?

Turn the page and find out.

The Amazing Race Asia comes to Manila

Get in the mood for The Amazing Race Asia by joining The Amazing Race Asia Promotional Tour today at the Mall of Asia.

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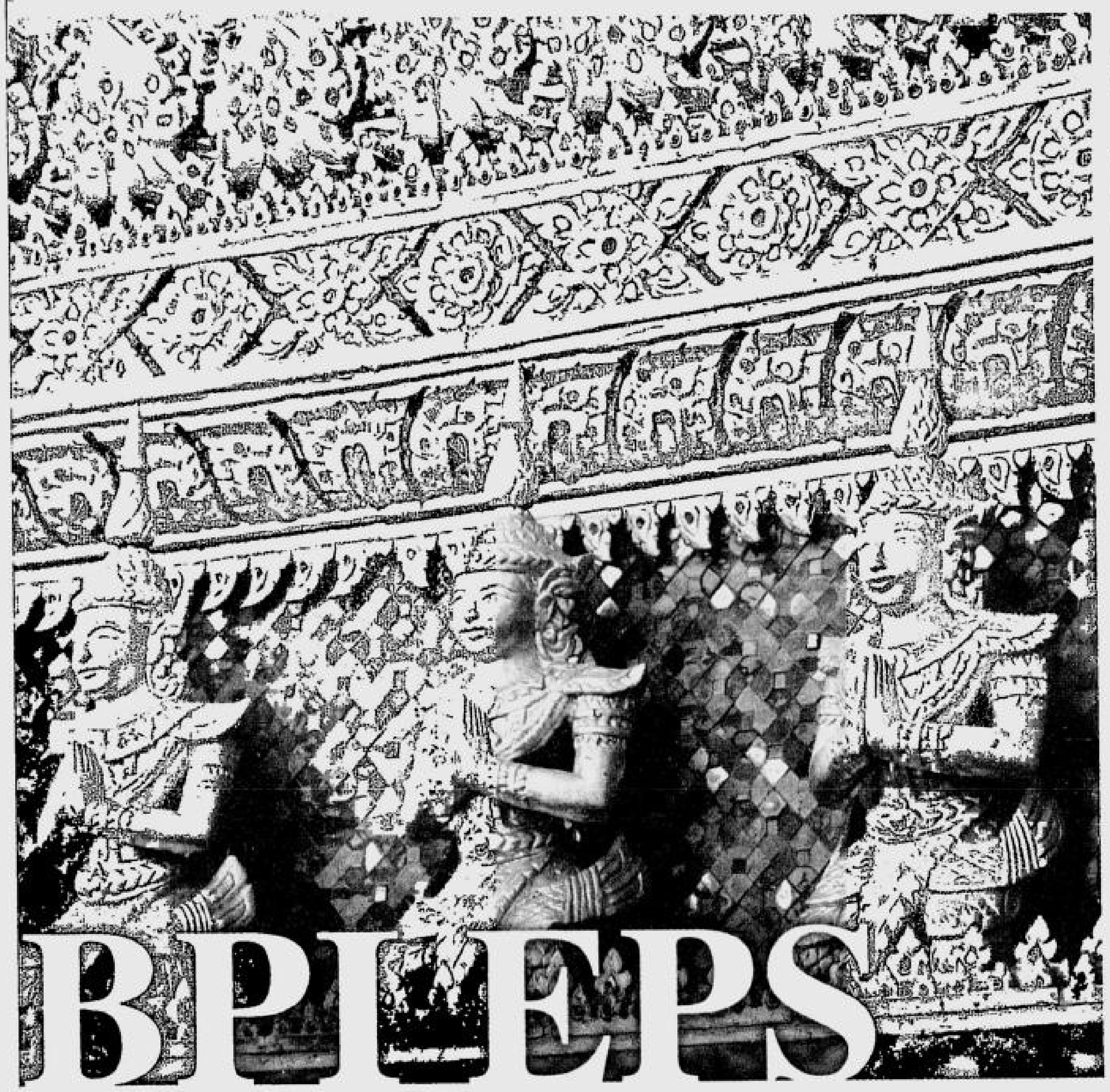

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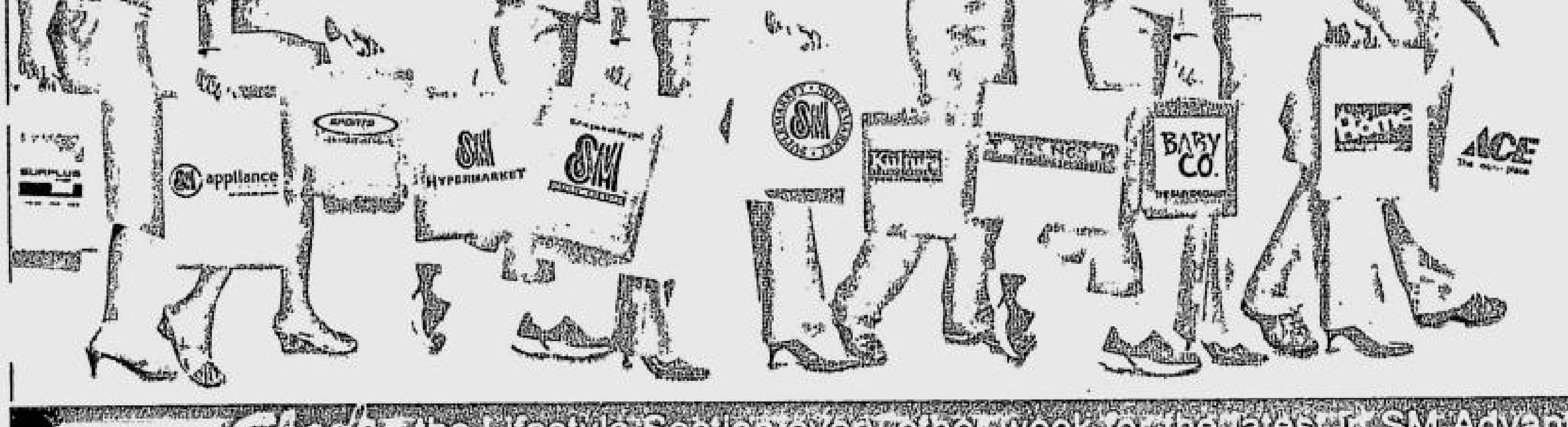

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Andrew and Syeon

Where they're from: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

How they're related: They've been dating for 18 months

The 411: Andrew is Malaysian and Syeon is an Australian of Korean descent. They met while snowboarding in Australia three years ago.

Their strengths: A strong belief in and support for each other.

Their fears: Andrew anticipates that the physical challenges in the race may be too much, especially for Syeon. Syeon is apprehensive about the emotional and mental stress. "Under the pressure of the race, a relationship can either go in a positive or negative way," says Andrew.

Their strategy: One, they will let Andrew make decisions during the race. Two, they will put their emotions aside as they play the game. Three, they intend to be in the top three at each leg. Four, they will rely on their extensive travel experience. Five, they refuse to play dirty.

Why you should root for them: Cheese galore. "You can't put a price on this one in a lifetime chance to race around the world with a loved one," says Andrew.

Sandy and Francesca

Where they're from: Hong Kong

How they're related: They've been dating for a few months.

The 411: Sandy, a personal trainer, and Francesca, a model, have known each other for a year and had only been dating for four months when they decided to join The Amazing Race Asia. They are eager to discover if they have what it takes to stand up to pressure in front of the cameras. Sandy says, "The race will be the experience of a lifetime."

Their strengths: Their confidence, being comfortable with one another, having a good head on their shoulders, a keen and positive sense of competitiveness and saying no to quitting.

Their strategy: Sandy and Francesca intend to have a really good time. They plan to play the best that they can, take things as they come and arrive at solutions whenever a problem arises. It looks like Francesca will be this team's leader—she likes being in control and is a big talker. They agree that talking is a huge part of her personality.

Why you should root for them: Hurrah for new couples!

Sharon and Melody

Where they're from: Singapore

How they're related: They're former schoolmates.

The 411: Sharon and Melody were former schoolmates but they only bonded after graduating. Melody, who has appeared in films and television shows in Singapore, is an extrovert who loves sports. Sharon is a self-described office slave.

Their strengths: Their connection, their unified faith and single-minded focus—to win the Amazing Race Asia and have fun along the way. They both did a 10k Marathon in 2005 and survived stronger than ever.

Their fears: They are wary of things they will be asked to do. Melody has a fear of heights while Sharon is dreading "ambiguity and eating bugs."

Their strategy: To focus on themselves rather than the other teams, making themselves their own greatest opponents. Their primary aim is to do the best they possibly can and come out with a stronger friendship, stronger mindsets and better people. Says Sharon, "As a team we are focused and mindful of the rules, here to have some good clean fun."

Why you should root for them: Because an all-girl team should win The Amazing Race soon.

Prashant and Sahil

Where they're from: Mumbai, India

How they're related: They're friends.

The 411: Prashant and Sahil, models from India's entertainment capital, have been friends for three years. Prashant organizes events and Sahil works for his family's business and the two regularly hit the gym. Sahil is more outgoing and spontaneous while Prashant is more laid back and more patient.

Their strengths: Their compatibility, their mutual understanding as close friends and their ability to perform better under stress. Prashant also believes their different personalities provide their team balance. "The thing that I lack, he excels in." Their pride in representing their country may also be the fuel that can drive them towards the finish line.

Their fears: The two haven't seen that many episodes of The Amazing Race.

Their strategy: Give the race everything they've got. Sahil says, "We won't over- or under-analyze the situation, we'll just do what it takes."

Why you should root for them: Because Bollywood hunks who have a mutual understanding are hot.

Laura and Andy

Where they're from: Koh Samui, Thailand

How they're related: They're business partners and they're a couple too.

The 411: Laura and Andy have been together for seven years and have been running a home business in Thailand. Andy is outgoing while Laura is more reserved. "Laura is more mature, so I bring a bit of youth into the equation," Andy said.

Their strengths: Their close working and living relationship. The two say they've "stress-proofed" their relationship even before joining the race. Traveling together isn't new to them—they've been to 14 countries together. Laura keeps Andy grounded and Andy keeps Laura on her toes. Their different personalities create the perfect balance. Laura and Andy say they are resourceful and can think out of the box and they believe they have "that vital outrageous spark of creativity needed to win the race."

Their fears: No fears for this confident couple.

Their strategy: "When stress hits the other teams, we plan to still be laughing!" said Andy. Laura and Andy have no clear strategy though. They believe having a plan might "impair their ability to react in real time to situations that develop during the race."

Why you should root for them: Because people who can think out of the box rock.

Ernesto and Jill

Where they're from: Manila, Philippines

How they're related: They've been married for ten years and have three kids.

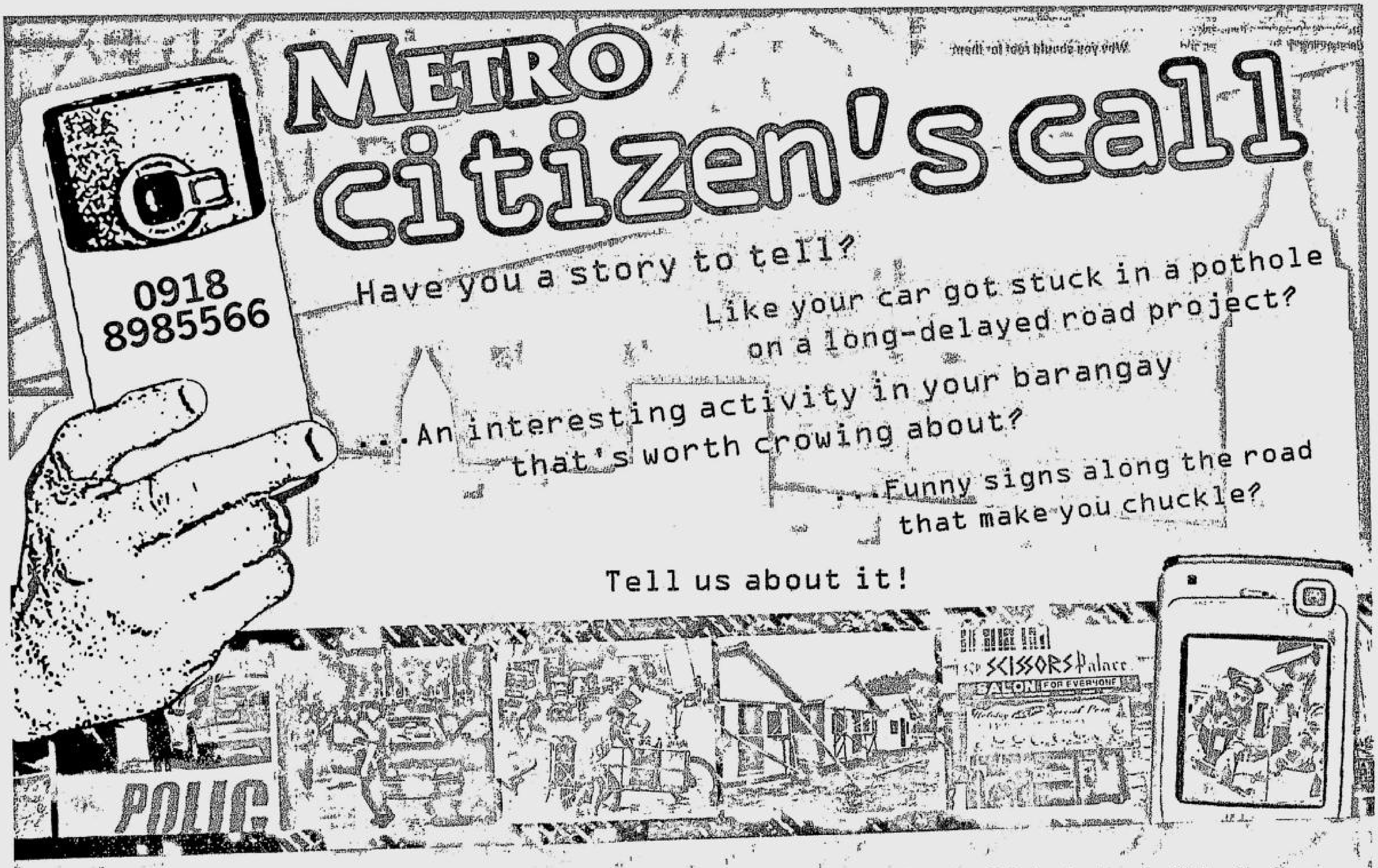
The 411: Ernie and Jeena met because Jeena's sister is married to Ernie's first cousin. Ernie started rock climbing with Jeena's best friend and the two bonded because of their fanatical love of sports. "Our relationship is an adventure," Ernie says. Described as fun and boisterous, Ernie believes they are "the clowns" of the race.

Their strengths: Their potent mix of athleticism and experience. "We've survived ten years of married life, so I hope that speaks for how well we'll do as a team," says Jeena. They've traveled extensively and are very sporty and fit. They hike, rock climb, technical dive, bungee jump and skydive together.

Their fears: Ernie's intensity, Jeena's drive and the couple's sense of humor leave little space for fear. "We know that this will give us more challenges," says Jeena, "But we hope to keep up that lighter side of things."

Their strategy: Take each day as it comes. "We know that this will give us more challenges," says Jeena, "But we hope to keep up that lighter side of things."

Why you should root for them Because there's a huge chance they'll win.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Aubrey and Jacqueline

Where they're from: Manila, Philippines

How they're related: They're best friends.

The 411: The actress and model met through Aubrey's sister and, despite their differences, have been best friends since. Aubrey said, "I am very organized, and she's not." Jacqueline added, "She complains all the time, and I do not."

Their strengths: "Our passion and being adventurous," Jacqueline said. The girls shouldn't be dismissed as just "eye candy." Aubrey said, "We are really skinny, we don't look so athletic, but it is all about what's inside you." They are hard-working and have a strong competitive streak that should be watched out for. Although they jokingly compare themselves to Paris Hilton and Nicole Richie, they might just be a force to reckon with, excelling in high-energy tasks like rock climbing and go-karting.

Their fears: The girls only expressed their hopes. "I think this will bring us closer," says Jacqueline.

Their strategy: They're not telling.

Why you should root for them: Because girls rule.

Mardy and Marsio

Where they're from: Jakarta, Indonesia

How they're related: They're brothers.

The 411: Born two years apart, Mardy and Marsio spent a lot of time together when they were young and even lived together in the US for a while. Now that they're adults, have jobs and their own families, the two haven't been spending as much time together. They believe joining the race will be a good chance to reconnect.

Their strengths: "Our biggest strength is our brain, and our perseverance," said Marsio.

Their fears: Although they are concerned that their physical state is one of their weaknesses, the two have similar motivations. "We want to win The Amazing Race Asia for our children and our wives."

Their strategy: Let other teams underestimate them. They may not look athletic but these boys are active too, even going diving together. "Hopefully our brotherhood will keep us strong and keep us going through the Race," Marsio said. "We can cover for each other," Mardy agreed.

Why you should root for them: According to a scientific study, siblings whose names begin with the same letter are 70 percent more likely to succeed than those whose names don't. Kidding.

Look ma, two Pinoy teams!

Sahran and Howard

Where they're from: Colombo, Sri Lanka

How they're related: They've been best friends for ten years.

The 411: The two met through a series of coincidences that they swear is too complicated to explain. British-born Howard is an area manager for a British tour agency while Sri Lankan Sahran is an interior decorator and events manager.

Their strengths: Sahran is a typical Aries, who lives in the moment and makes decisions on the spot and Howard is a typical Taurus, who needs to think about things for a long while before he can decide. Howard calls the result "the seesaw effect"—if one is up, the other one is down and vice versa. Sahran and Howard see this as a strength, allowing them to pick the other up when he is down. The two have also traveled extensively together and are strong advocates of travel. Sahran says, "People's problems come from their lack of understanding of other countries and civilizations in the world. The more people travel, the more understanding they generate within themselves." Howard adds, "Our team's advantage is our sensitivity to the people and the environments we go into."

Their fears: Missing the comforts of home. Howard says he gets grumpy if he doesn't have regular meals and Sahran likes having a shower every day.

Their strategy: To be motivated by new experiences and the excitement.

Why you should root for them: Because diversity is sexy.

Zabrina and Joe Jer

Where they're from: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

How they're related: Zabrina and Joe Jer used to work together.

The 411: The two met while working at a TV station and share an intense passion for reality TV. Now it's their turn to be in the spotlight.

Their strengths: They are quick-witted, spontaneous, and more than a little gutsy. They know each other very well and are both heavily into competitive sports. Because of their differences, Zabrina and Joe Jer can compensate for one another's shortcomings. They also believe their knowledge in reality TV can take them a long way. Being hardcore fans of The Amazing Race and knowing the game inside out, Zabrina and Joe Jer should know which mistakes to avoid. "We know the game," says Zabrina. "We really know it. We watch it all the time. We take note of all the things that go wrong and right in the game."

Their fears: Their lack in physical stature.

Their strategy: Let other teams underestimate their strengths.

Why you should root for them: Because they're huge fans of the show. That's like letting a groupie sing lead. Or something.

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Beer Bonanza

24/7
nocturnal navigator

Paolo R. Reyes
Janine Cuenca-Dario

OOMPAH bands, lovely buxom barmaids, and enough barrels of beer to fill six Olympic-sized swimming pools—such are the ingredients of Germany's world-famous booze fest.

If you're bent on a little Bavarian-style bacchanalia, get ready to roll out the barrel for Oktoberfest 2006 on Oct. 6 and 7 at Le Pavillon, Metropolitan Park, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. The 11-piece Bavarian Sound Express flies in straight from Munich to render lively oompah music (a heady hodgepodge of polkas, marches, and modern songs), while chefs from the Mandarin Oriental Manila whip up a gustatory feast of German fare.

For two straight nights, you'll find plenty of boisterous singing, friendly bear hugs, a few drool-worthy prizes (Lufthansa raffles off a round-trip ticket to Munich!), and—lest we forget—free-flowing mugs of beer.

For the full effect, arrive in authentic alpine attire (lederhosen trousers for men, low-cut dirndl smocks for women), scream "O'zapft is'!" whenever a keg of beer is opened, and don't bounce till you imbibe gargantuan quantities of the golden liquid. Tickets are priced at P1,790, inclusive of a complimentary mug and unlimited food and beer. For reservations, call 750-8888 ext. 2401.

Anatomy of Music

Brace yourselves for a big dose of popcapella.

The Akafellas, the acapella group that brought to us fresh versions of "Harana," "Bongga Ka Day" and "Tuloy Pa Rin," will be staging a concert on Oct. 7 at the Music Museum.

The 'Fellas, who call themselves a voice band, have certainly gone a long way in the four years they've spent in the music industry, holding gigs left and right, releasing an album, staging big concerts and opening for international artists like Stephen Speaks, Mandy Moore, Daniel Bedingfield, Ashanti and Mariah Carey.

The show, dubbed "The Akafellas: Anatomy of Music," will feature guest performers Aiza Seguerra, Keempee De Leon and Gladys Guevarra. Tickets, priced at P1,000, P800 and P600, are available at Music Museum or Lugawan Republic (45 Timog Ave., Quezon City). Call 3728844 or 09174907316 for inquiries.

Other Super! 24/7 events:

Sept. 30, Saturday

Razorback & Tie Dye Shift at Saguijo; On Air, Rocksteady & Session 10 at Conspiracy; Lounge-O-Rama w/ Soundsgood DJs at Embassy Cuisine; Bacardi Bling at w/ DJ McCoy at Vida Malate; Weekender w/ DJs Paolo Maralit and Cao Ocampo at Jill's ; Bringin' Back the Bounce w/ DJ Marie Garcia at Mati; Party On! w/ DJs Buddha & JD at Absinth; Salsa Night at Ricco-Renzo Café; House Groovin' at Mezze; Sleepless at Embassy Club; Cynthia Alexander at Mag:net Café; DJ Badboy Jeff at Temple; Wham Bam w/ DJ Bam at Government; DJs Scratchmark & Shorty at Prince of Jaipur; Dragon Saturdays at Bed; Flintstones at Merk's; Jay C. & USO at Shang Streetscape

Oct. 1, Sunday

Diwali: Indian Food Festival at Queens; LomoLove: Photo Exhibit at Black Soup Gallery, Cubao-X; Philippine Madrigal Singers concert at CCP Main Theater; "Godot Wer is U?" at CCP Studio Theater; No Borders CulTour Festival at Chateau 1771; Joseph The Dreamer at SM Megamall Cinema 4; Jazz Sunday Brunch at M Cafe

Oct. 2, Monday

Independent Filmmakers Night at '70s Bistro; CanU DIGGIT? w/ DJs Red-I & Brandon Umali at Absinth; Enchanted Evenings w/ Concertino at Azzurro Linden Suites; I Don't Like Mondays! w/ DJ RO at Gweilos Makati; Diwali: Indian Food Festival at Queens; Eastwind Jazz Trio at Captain's Bar; Follies de Mwah at Club Mwah; Silk & Steel at Merk's

Oct. 3, Tuesday

Orange & Lemons at '70s Bistro; Opening night of Película: 5th Spanish Film Festival at Greenbelt 3 Cinemas, Ayala Center; Cuisine Royale w/ Manolet Dario at Embassy Cuisine; Stand-up Comedy Night at Coffee Bean (Convergys Bldg. branch); DJs Crash & Patrick G. at Temple; Sex & the City Ladies Night at Mezze; Piano Nights w/ Tito Duran at Azzurro Linden Suites; Sparkle! w/ DJs Patch & Erwin Edralin at Absinth; Kickback Tuesdays at Manila DJ Club; Diwali: Indian Food Festival at Queens; Guarana at Café Havana Greenbelt; Spirit of '67 at Captain's Bar

Oct. 4, Wednesday

I-ON NIGHT: Metrowear Fashion Series at The Loft, Rockwell; German Film Festival at Shang Cineplex, Shangri-La Plaza Mall; Skyy High w/ DJ Joy at Vida, Malate; Julianne, The Amandas & Ledh at 6Underground; The Jerks at '70s Bistro; Weekend Wednesdays w/ DJ Boyet Almazan at Strumm's; Bliss at Temple; The Bloomfields at Eastwood Fuente Circle; Vixen w/ DJ Cao Ocampo at Embassy Cuisine; DJs Mars Miranda & Johnyverse at Embassy Club; Enchanted Evenings w/ Concertino at Azzurro Linden Suites; Smooth w/ DJ Steve Mills at Absinth; Discotech at Mezze; Funksouljah at Manila DJ Club; Stereo Therapy at Embassy VIP Room; Willy Wanka's Music Factory at Gweilos Makati; DJ Brit at Government; Jazz Night at Mag:net Café

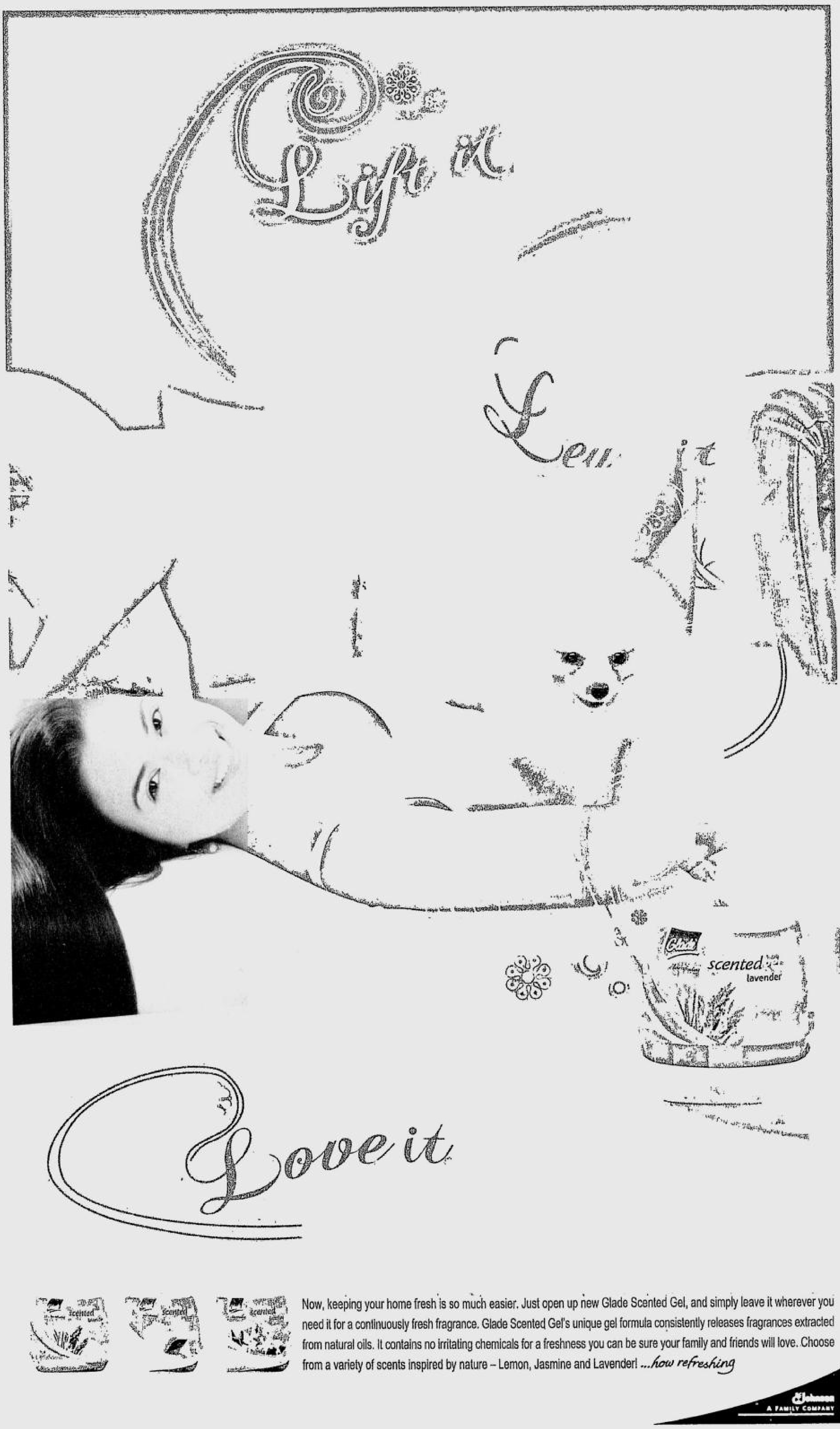
Oct. 5, Thursday

Worldwide Thursdays w/ Soundsgood DJs at Nuvo; Queso, Typecast & Whatevuritakes at 6Underground; Brownman Revival at '70s Bistro; Jazz Sessions w/ Skarlet & Aye Yuson at Eastwood City Walk 2; Stand-up Comedy Night at Coffee Bean (Salcedo branch); Coup w/ DJ Manolet Dario at Fiamma; Fluxxe: Whatever Thursdays at Absinth; SPIT at Mag:net Café; Ladies Night w/ DJ Badboy Jeff at Temple; Open Mic Night w/ Obet Dumas at Azzurro Linden Suites; G Lounge at Mezze; Thirsty Thirstdays at Bed; Silk at Metro Bar; JB Showband Revival at Captain's Bar

Oct. 6, Friday

Oktoberfest 2006 at Le Pavillon, Roxas Blvd.; Von Trapp Children: Live! at PICC; "Love, Death and Mompou" at RCBC Plaza; Tropical Depression at 6Underground; Itchyworms and Orange & Lemons at Eastwood Central Plaza; Decadance w/ Boyet Almazan at Jill's; House Sessions w/ DJs Marc Naval, Bombi Balquiedra & Jakey Yulo at Fiamma; DJs Patch & Mon Maramba at Absinth; Acoustic Night w/ Boyet Vasquez at Azzurro Linden Suites; DJ Owens Sun at Embassy Club; HouseBeats at Mati; MyHOUSE at M Café; Soul Shine at Embassy Cuisine; Happy Yummy at Government; DJs Darrel & McDash at Temple; Noel Cabangon at '70s Bistro; Passage at Shang Streetscape; Freeverse at Metro Bar; Route 70 at Merk's; DJs Scratchmark & Bliss at Prince of Jaipur

Schedules may change without prior notice. For a complete listing of events, text 24/7 to 2949 (Globe) and 209 (Smart). Log on to mag24-7.com or pick up your free copy of 24/7 NOCTURNAL NAVIGATOR at bars and restaurants around the city. Submit your schedules before Tuesday to events@mag24-7.com & mag24_7@yahoo.com.



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SATURDAY *Special*

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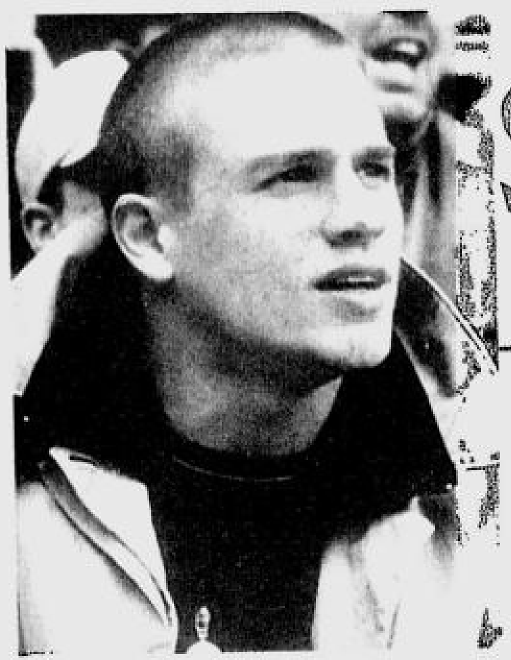
MARA AND CASSIDY. Play superheroes in "Zoom."



HUNNAM. Perfect balance of authority and anarchy.

Exciting comers strut their stuff

By Nestor U. Torre

EXCITING TALENTS ARE GETTING THEIR big break on the silver screen this year. Leading the youthful comers are the teen actors playing superheroes in the new adventure comedy, "Zoom."

Michael Cassidy plays Dylan, a reflective changling who's very skeptical about the superhero academy's training program. Spencer Breslin portrays Tucker (with the help of a fat suit)—a chubby kid who can make himself much bigger.

Kate Mara plays Summer, a telekinetic empath. And seven-year-old Ryan Newman portrays Cindy, a little powerhouse who can effortlessly lift 4,000 pounds!

Brooding good looks

For his part, Charlie Hunnam gets his star-making showcase in "Green Street Hooligan," a gritty film that tackles gang violence. Hunnam co-stars with the popular Elijah Wood, but manages to get his own licks in with his combination of edgy talent and brooding good looks.

Noted film critic Joe Lleydon observes: "Often resembling Brad Pitt's younger, more pissed-off sibling, Hunnam hits the perfect balance of authority and anarchy, low cunning and instinctive decency." That unabashed rave so early in his career bodes well for Charlie's ascent to stardom!

In the teen comedy, "John Tucker Must Die," it's the girls' turn to get noticed. Playing the victims of the movie's faithless and fickle anti-hero are Arielle Kebbel as the ambitious Carrie, Ashanti as head cheerleader Heather, and Sophia Bush as vegan activist Beth. Another lead character, school newcomer Kate, is portrayed by Brittany Snow.

Gardener

Tucker is played by another young comer, Jesse Metcalfe, who was first noticed on TV's "Desperate Hosuewives," when he was cast as the gardener who romanced Eva Langoria's character—in the buff.

Another production that gives young actors a chance to show what they can do is "Flags of Our Fathers," Clint Eastwood's highly-anticipated World War II drama.

Its stars are Paul Walker and Ryan Phillippe, but important roles are also portrayed by newer talents Jesse Bradford, Jamie Bell and Barry Pepper.

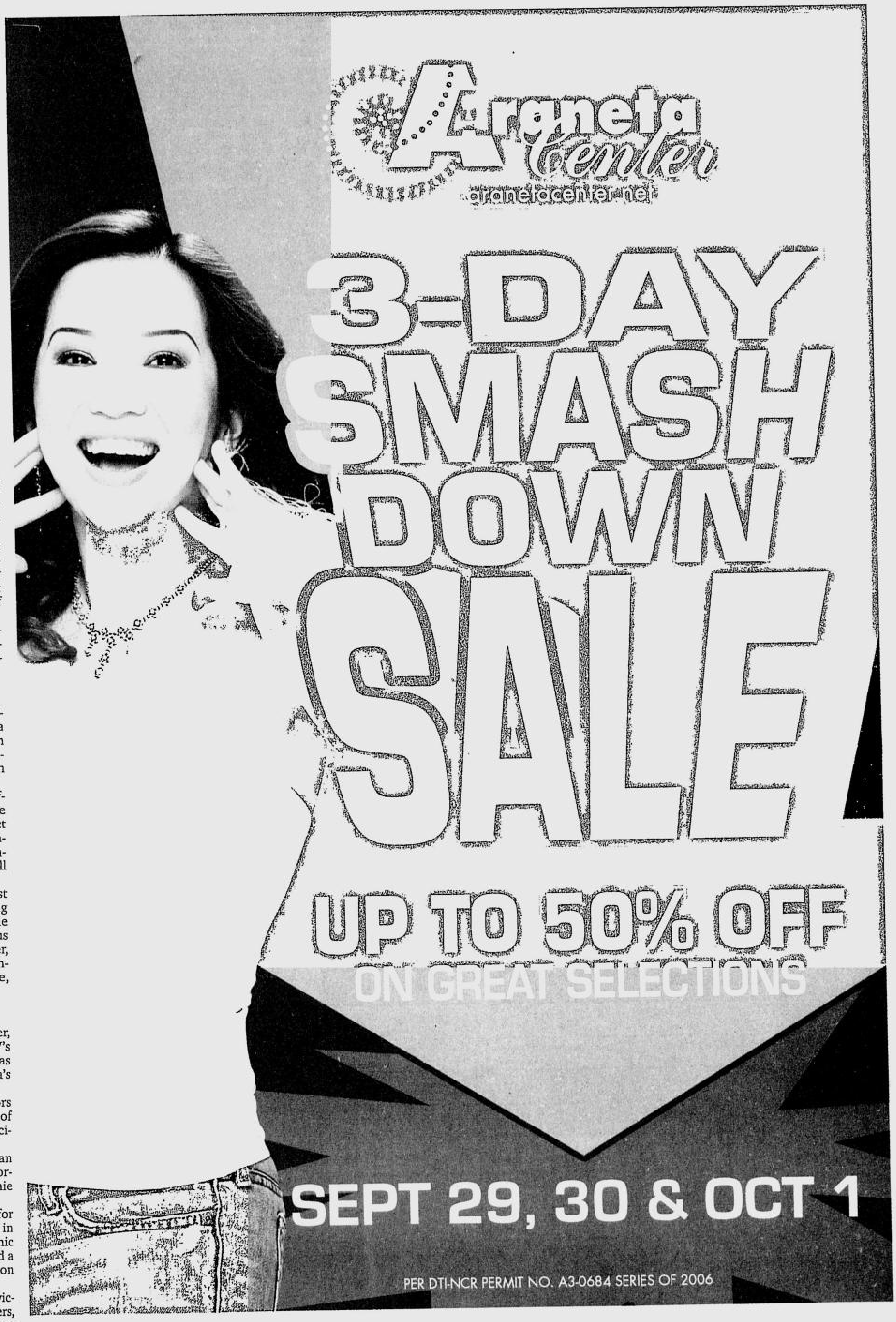
The film dramatizes the bloody struggle for the island of Iwo Jima, which culminated in what would become one of the most iconic images in military history: Five Marines and a Navy corpsman raising the American flag on Mount Suribachi.

The inspiring photo became a symbol of victory, and made instant heroes of the six soldiers, some of whom would die soon after, never knowing that they had been immortalized.

WWE champion

Finally, Kelly Carlson, who rose to TV fame as Kimber on "Nip/Tuck," flexes her sexy muscles in the upcoming actioner, "The Marine," opposite WWE champion John Cena.

We trust that some of these young comers will benefit from their big-screen showcases this year, and become exciting, bankable stars who will help energize the international film scene for years to come.



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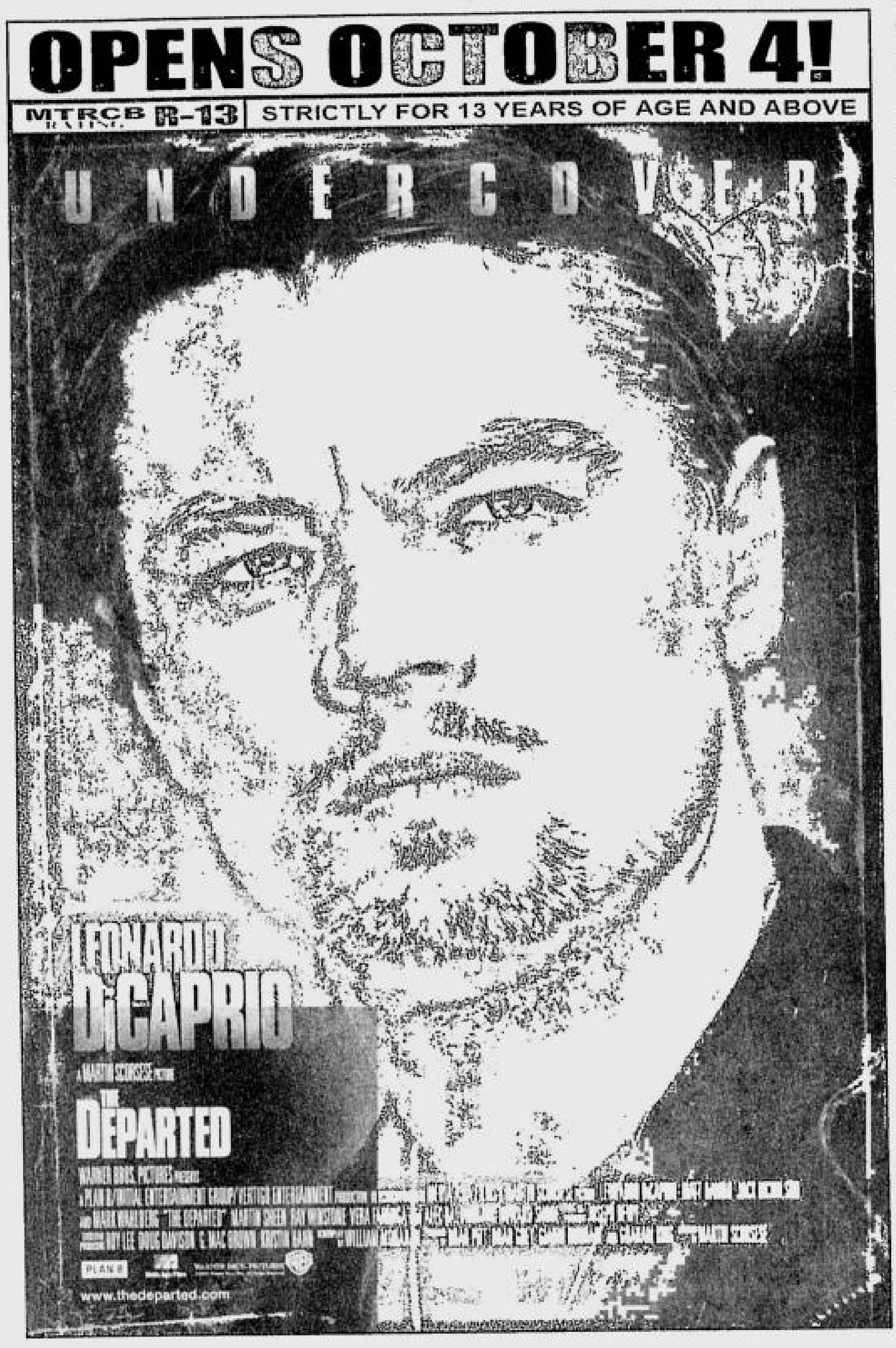
Otoniel Gonzaga teams up with Dulce, MPO

OTONIEL GONZAGA TEAMS UP WITH Asian diva, Dulce, and the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra (MPO) in a year-end concert, "Christmas Spectacular & Immortal Arias," at the Philamlife Theater on Dec. 9.

In the concert, the MPO under the baton of Rodel Colmenar, will also accompany guest soprano, Camille Lopez Molina, and flutist Christopher Oracion,

OTONIEL/E3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Pageant for petite beauties

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

THE SEARCH IS ON FOR THE 2007 Miss Petite Philippines. The winner will represent the country in the 2007 Miss Petite International beauty pageant in Texas, USA in July next year. This was recently announced by Vanessa Lagarde, the local pageant's organizer.

Image models

The contest is open to ladies who are between 18 to 27 years old, below 5'3" in height, and willing to travel. The pageant is looking for beautiful image models with petite frames.

This year's local competition will focus on Philippine tourism. Lagarde said that the winner of another title—Miss Petite Tourism—will be chosen to serve as ambassadress of domestic tourism.

The pageant will follow the criteria used by the Miss Petite International committee: Poise, modeling grace, beauty of face, good physical proportions, and conversational intelligence.

Official candidates will undergo modeling and personality workshops with fashion luminaries and beauty queens. Then, they will be featured in a series of fashion shows at Cief Café and Ristoranti in Quezon City.

Nonprofit organization

The Miss Petite Philippines pageant is under the auspices of the International Pageants-Philippines Bureau, a nonstock, nonprofit organization dedicated to the promotion of tourism through beauty pageants.

LAGARDE. Beauty tilt's organizer.

Entry forms are available at Cief at 229 Tomas Morato and at the secretariat of International Pageants-Philippines Bureau on Kamuning in Quezon City. Call Lanie Aquino at 920-3177.

E-mail mandynavasero@yahoo.com, or call 896-3208.

Good governance

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

CHINESE PHILOSOPHERS HAVE come up with wise sayings to guide their rulers and government officials. Here are insights from the book, "Chinese Maxims: Golden Sayings of Chinese Thinkers," edited by Gong Dafei and Feng Yu:

"Inferior in virtue, but enjoying much favor; low in rank, but intervening in state affairs; achieving no great success, but seeking the highest salary—all these are sources of hatred.

Objectives

"A ruler should not be greedy for luxurious food, enjoy frivolous music, nor indulge in promiscuity. He should not crave for pleasure. Instead, he should be diligent. He should show understanding for people's suffering, accept praises as admonitions, and delight in the discovery of a talented individual as much as if he were to receive honor himself.

"If a ruler corrects his mistakes and avoids the same errors, he will win the support of the people and achieve his objectives.

"A ruler's first misfortune is when he fails to recognize worthy people despite his close proximity to them. A second one is when he fails to let them display excellence even after he recognizes them. Third, if he fails to appoint them to important functions."

Reputation

"People who are referred to as 'four troubles' include: Someone fond of managing great affairs and obtains a reputation by constantly changing the rules in his favor is called ambitious; an autocratic man who forces others to serve and agree with him is greedy; a man who doesn't correct his mistakes and gets angry when they are pointed out to him is extreme, and someone who is friendly to whomever agrees with him but unkind to those who don't is conceited.

"Worthy and talented men are subject to '10 difficulties': The ruler's ignorance of their abilities; lack of influential people who could recommend them; failure to use them; inconsistency in treating them; negation of their great virtues due to resentment; denial of their achievements; obliteration of great merits because of small mistakes; slanderous criticisms against loyal and just people; confusing wise judgment as heretical ideas, and dismissal of the virtuous.

Difficulties

"Without overcoming these difficulties, the worthy cannot be appointed to key posts, and those appointed to important positions can't be worthy. If this happens, a country won't survive for long.

"Hypocrisy disrupts customs, selfishness ruins legal systems; debauchery transgresses moral standards, and extravagance destroys institutions. If these four evils aren't removed, there's no way for good governance to exist."

---

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AT THE CINEMAS

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GB1	1 FLYBOYS	2 ZOOM		
GB3	1 THX FLYBOYS GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX ZOOM GUARANTEED SEATS		
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	3 FIRST DAY HIGH	4 DOA: DEAD OR ALIVE	5 STEP-UP	
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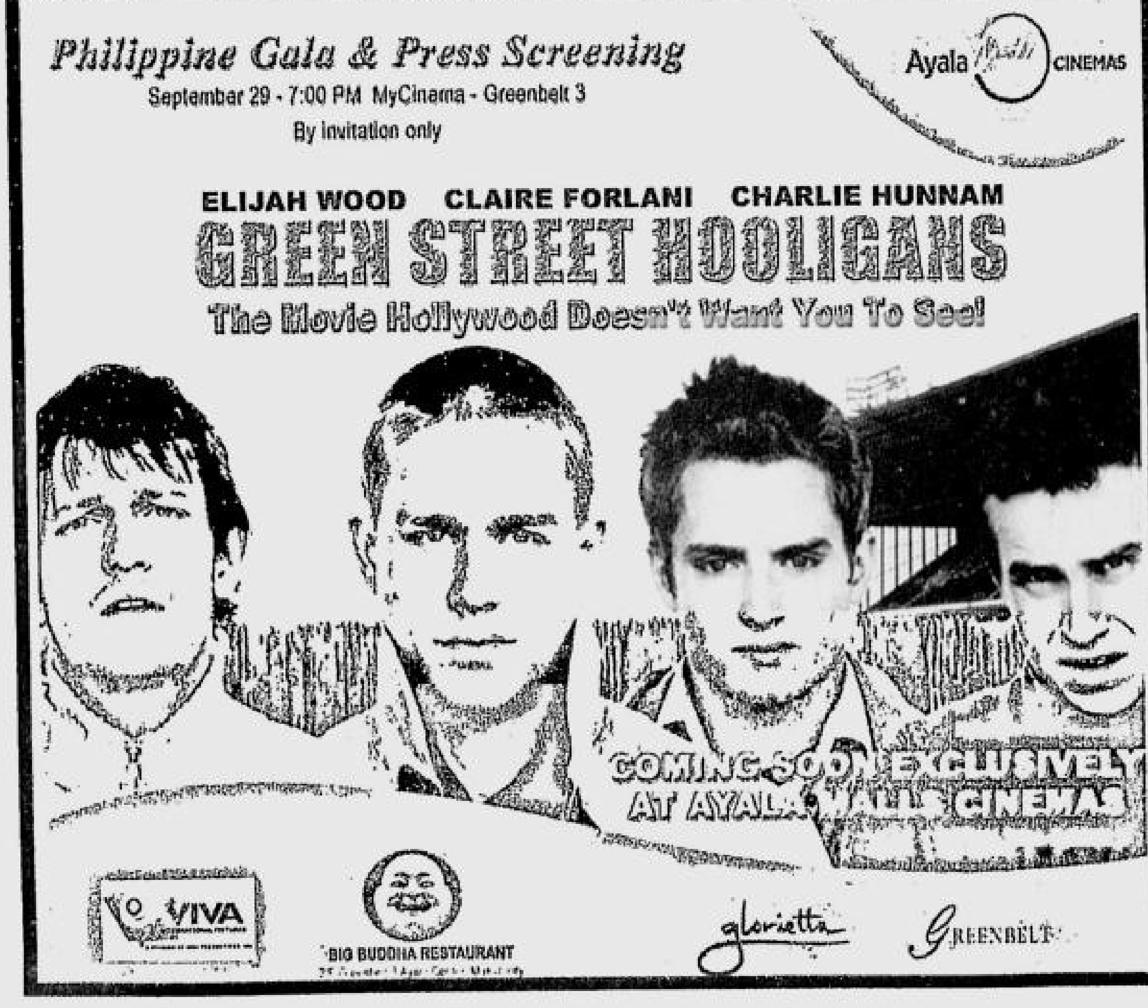
Ayala MUSEUM	Homecoming of 21st Asian International Art Exhibition Philippines September 19 to October 1, 2006 For inquiries, please call 757-7117 to 21 loc 29 or visit www.ayalamuseum.org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Cardinal Rosales discusses poverty on EWTN

By Lilia Borlongan-Alvarez

MANILA ARCHbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales took the government and some Filipino Christians to task when he recently said that poverty had been mainly caused by injustice in the distribution of resources, and dishonesty in running business.

Guesting on the television program, "EWTN Live," last Sept. 21, the Cardinal said poverty was pegged at 68 percent—or two-thirds of the population.

Greatest problem

Rosales said that poverty had become the greatest problem the Church in the country needed to address. "Some of the issues underlying poverty are the inequitable distribution of resources and government services, graft and corruption, greed, and indifference. There should be no room for poverty in the community of Christian believers," Rosales underscored, as he quoted Pope Benedict XVI's first encyclical, *Deus caritas est* (God is love).

Moral dimension

When asked by host Fr. Mitch Pacwa, S.J. how the Church could tackle the moral dimension to address dishonesty in government and business, Rosales answered that it was not sufficient to solve the problem "the political way."

He explained: "The problem should be addressed through moral transformation, and through a new kind of evangelization—a change in one's perspective, vision, direction, motivation and values related to the spirit of sharing."

Known for his work as an environmentalist and outspoken advocate for alleviating the plight of the poor in the prelature diocese of Malaybalay, Bukidnon, Rosales said people had remained poor there because they gambled a lot and had all sorts of vices.

"But, when I was transferred to Lipa City, we embarked on a different approach: Catechesis—and it worked! The centerpiece of that movement, dubbed 'Pondo ng Pinoy' (in which everyone is encouraged to give 25 centavos), revolved around the parable of Lazarus and the rich man, in which the message is about man's willingness to share with his neighbor—even the 'scraps,' 'crumbs' or things that he no longer needs," he said.

Compassion

But, he warned that those who give without compassion should not join the movement. "The heart of this evangelizing effort starts with little things. I call it the 'democratization of charity,'" he added. "This is the reason why we begin small—an ounce of goodness starts with a smile or a tap on someone's shoulder."

Phone calls

Rosales also answered phone calls, mostly from Filipinos based in Maryland and Florida asking how the Church's program for the poor was faring. He briefly mentioned that the Church had provided housing, microfinancing services, and aid to fishermen's cooperatives.

His concerns have been largely focused on housing and shelter, personal salvation and value formation. He has been known to fight illegal and commercial logging in Bukidnon, where the DENR had declared a total logging ban as a result of the local Church's efforts.

The Cardinal also went to New York to concelebrate mass with 100 priests on the feast day of Lorenzo Ruiz, the first Filipino saint, said EWTN Asia Pacific regional manager, Edwin Lopez.

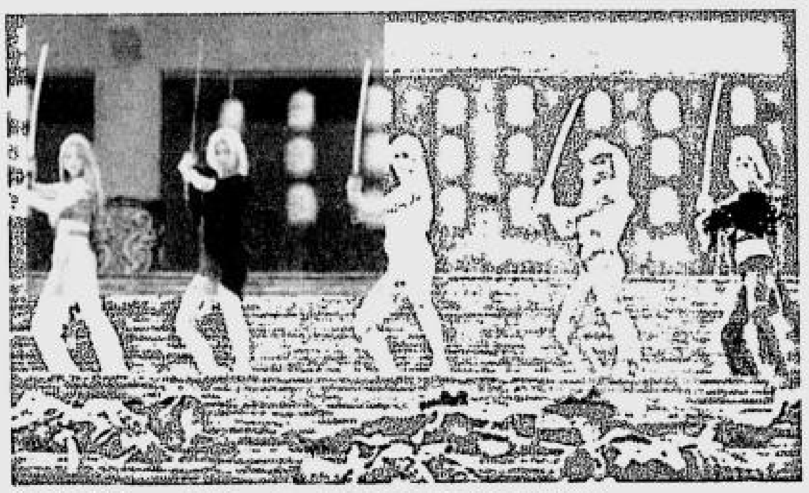
ROSALES. Pushes for "the democratization of charity."

Babes in videoland

By Noelani Torre

IF YOU'RE WONDERING WHEther the newly-released movie, "DOA: Dead or Alive," is based on the 1950 noir classic of (almost) the same title, then you're probably somebody who loves films. And anybody who loves the movies shouldn't subject himself to "DOA."

However, if you know that the movie is based on the Tecmo/Team Ninja video game series, and you just happen to be an adolescent male, you'll probably consider this foxy fighter caper well worth your while.



"DOA." Flimsy plotline doesn't hold up to close scrutiny.

Adaptation

The "DOA" video games run along the same lines as other fighting games like "Street Fighter" and "Mortal Kombat." Its film adaptation is likewise similar to the two movies' versions, which comes as no surprise since their producer, Paul WS Anderson, is also the producer of "DOA."

Anderson is obviously a video game fan. His films are really just game sequences strung together by flimsy plotlines that don't hold up to close scrutiny.

Okay, you're watching "DOA" for its stars—Devon Aoki, Jaime Pressly, Holly Valance, Natassia Malthe and Sarah Carter—who are always in states of near nakedness.

They play characters who are two-dimensional: Aoki is Ninja princess, Kasumi; Pressly is Tina Armstrong, a wrestler; Valance is Christie Allen, an expert thief; Malthe is Ayane, a purple-haired assassin sent to kill Kasumi, and Carter is Helena Douglas, daughter of the founder of DOA. (For some reason, the Ninja princess lives in what looks like the Forbidden City. Have the Ninjas invaded China?)

Tournament

DOA is a martial arts tournament held on an island, and the aforementioned girls (except for the assassin) go there to fight. That's basically it, plot-wise.

In short, for most of the film's 87 minutes, you will be watching perfectly-toned babes in bikinis clobber various extras—and sometimes, each other—with hardly a scratch, bruise, or broken nail. It's visually entertaining—even if you're not an adolescent male overflowing with hormones. But, cleavage and bum shots will only take you so far.

There's the action, of course, which is presumably the *other* reason why anybody would watch a movie like this.

Director Corey Yuen is a veteran martial arts choreographer ("Romeo Must Die," "X-Men"). He manages to come up with a number of mildly exciting sequences. But, none of them really stands out.

Cheesy

The production's CGI effects give the movie a dated, cheesy feel, further compounded by the presence of quintessential B-movie star, Eric Roberts. As expected, the acting is dreadful—Roberts' and everyone else's, except for Jaime Pressly's.

Pressly, who received an Emmy nomination earlier this year, looks like the only one aware of the fact that the movie is nothing but sheer camp. She hams it up, while her co-stars take themselves too seriously.

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Otoniel . . .

From page E2

two-time first prize winner of the National Music Competition for Young Artists.

Gonzaga, a winner of the Marian Anderson Voice Competition and the ARD International Voice Competition in Munich, will do a duet with Dulce, a grand prize winner of the Asian Singing Competition in Hong Kong.

Love songs

While Gonzaga will perform immortal arias from "Tosca" and "Rigoletto," Dulce will sing love songs identified with her, such as "Memory" (from "Cats") and "With One Look"(from "Sunset Boulevard").

Soprano Camille Lopez Molina will do a "La Boheme" duet with Gonzaga.

Flutist Christopher Oracion will play Bizet's "Carmen Fantasy" and Verdi's "Traviata Concertwaltzer."

Gonzaga's Dec. 9 concert will open the Great Performance series at the Philamlife Theater.

The second concert in the lineup will feature brilliant young Russian pianist Ilya Rashkovsky, first prize winner of the First Hong Kong International Piano Competition and second prize winner of the Marguerite Long-Jacques Thibaud Competition in Paris.

Solo recital

Rashkovskiy will be featured in a solo recital, "An Evening of Piano Fantasy," at the Philamlife Theater on Dec. 13.

Presented in cooperation with Philamlife Insurance Company, the Great Performance series ends on Feb. 24 next year, with a performance of Romanian violin superstar, Alexandru Tomescu and pianist Mary Anne Espina.

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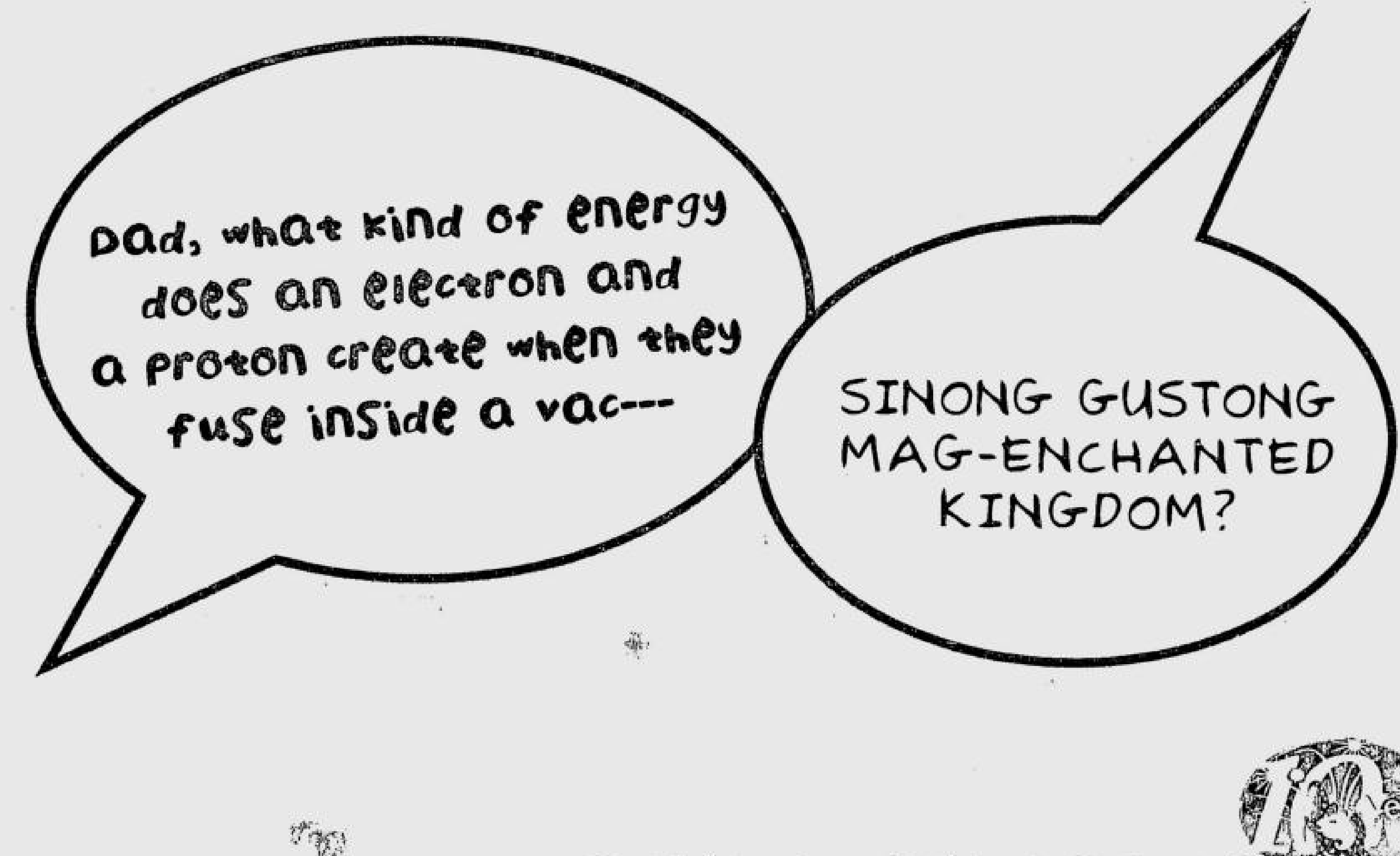

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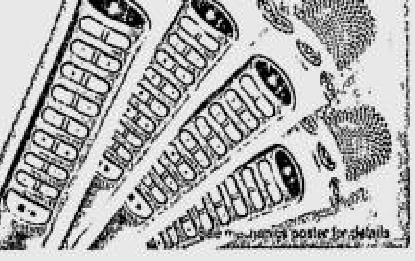

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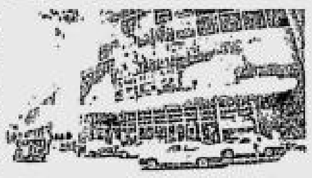

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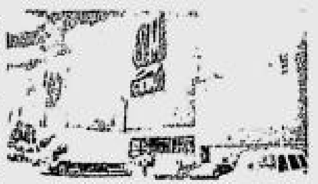

The Travellers Lounge is for out-of-town shoppers who wish to use the shower facilities and luggage storage counter. Tickets for shipping lines may also be purchased at the Lounge.

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NOW SHOWING

Nora Aunor back to superlative form in lackluster digital indie

By Rito P. Asilo

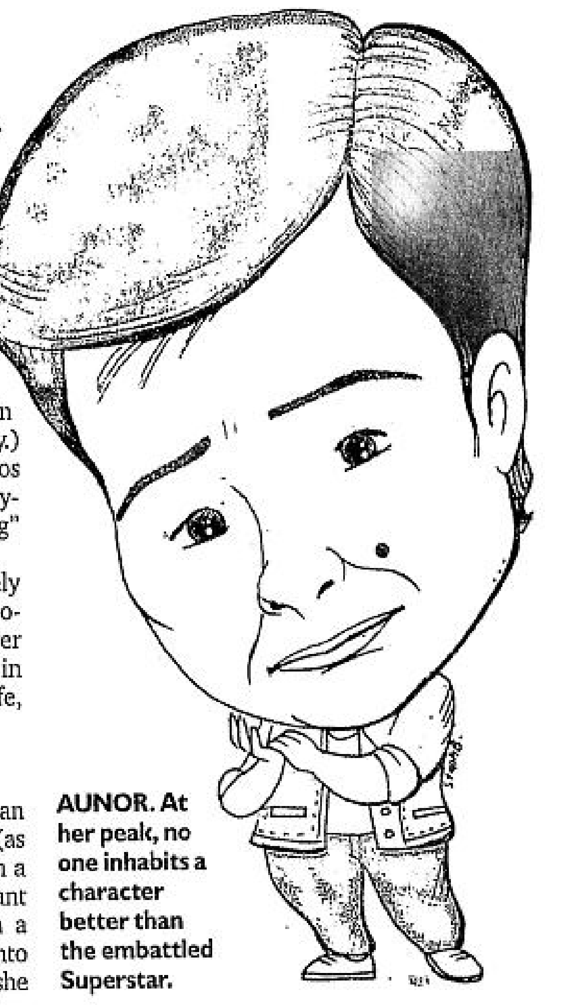
"Ingrata"

D: Joey A. Gonzales

S: Nora Aunor, Bernardo Bernardo, John Robert Porter Jr. (*aka* John Rendez), Germaine de Leon

FANS OF SUPERSTAR NORA Aunor have something to rejoice about with her second foray into digital indies in the US. (Her first, Suzette Ranillo's "Care Home," about a Filipino professor reduced to working as a caregiver in America, has yet to be released locally.) She was last seen in Maryo J. delos Reyes' interesting but flawed May-September drama, "Naglalayag" (2004).

Joey Gonzales' relevant but ornately convoluted melodrama follows the story of Bea (Nora Aunor) 10 years after she leaves her two-timing husband in the Philippines for a new lease on life, luck and love in the United States.



AUNOR. At her peak, no one inhabits a character better than the embattled Superstar.

CARICATURE BY STEPH BRAVO

Sense of resignation

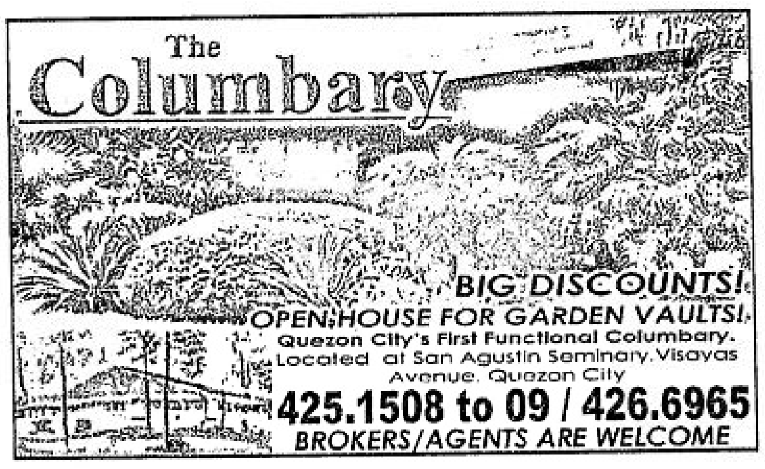
But the sheen of Bea's fabled American Dream has faded: She juggles two jobs (as a gas station attendant and waitress in a videoke bar) to support her brilliant daughter's college education, lives in a shabby mobile home, and has settled into a crippling sense of resignation as she awaits the release of her abusive, freeloading new hubby, Noli (an unrecognizably heavy John Rendez *aka* John Robert Porter Jr.), a former actor-singer in Manila and sex-chat addict—who has been languishing in prison for the past year.

Her dreary existence is further shaken when she gets a call from her gay older brother, Hermie (Bernardo Bernardo), an advertising executive who also packed up his bags in Manila for greener pastures in "the land of milk and honey," whom she's forced to take in.

Dilemma

But, as the day of Noli's release draws closer, she's suddenly sucked into an existential dilemma: How has she been reduced to this sad, tired

NORA/F2



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2 FIRST DAY HIGH
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

3 FLY BOYS
1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00

4 ZOOM
1:25 3:30 5:35 7:40 9:50

5 POSSESSED BY EVIL
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

6 TWILIGHT DANCERS
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

7 DEAD OR ALIVE
1:40 3:45 5:50 7:55 10:00

8 THE BREED
1:40 3:45 5:50 7:55 10:00

9 STEP UP
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

10 CRANK
1:40 3:45 5:50 7:55 10:00

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 FIRST DAY HIGH
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

2 TWILIGHT DANCERS
12:35 2:50 5:05 7:25 9:50

3 ZOOM
12:20 2:20 4:40 6:20 8:25 10:00

4 FLY BOYS
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

5 DEAD OR ALIVE
11.45 1:45 3:45 5:50 7:55 10:00

6 POSSESSED BY EVIL
11:45 1:45 3:45 5:50 7:55 10:00

7 STEP UP 11:45 1:45 3:45
THE BREED 6:00 8:00 9:50

METRO EAST 682-8193 - 682-8199

1 THE BREED
1 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

2 FIRST DAY HIGH
11:15 1:45 4:15 6:45 9:10

3 CRANK
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

4 ZOOM
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5 DEAD OR ALIVE
12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:10

6 POSSESSED BY EVIL
11:30 1:55 4:20 6:45 9:10

7 FLY BOYS
12:00 3:00 6:00 9:00

8 STEP UP
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

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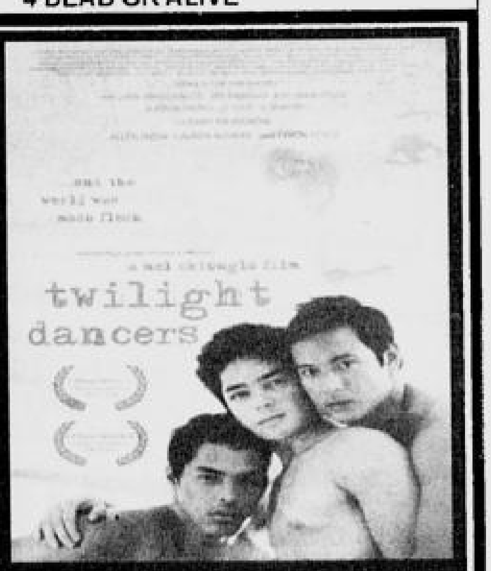

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2 TWILIGHT DANCERS
3 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
4 FIRST DAY HIGH

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2 FIRST DAY HIGH
3 STAY ALIVE
4 YOU, ME AND DUPREE

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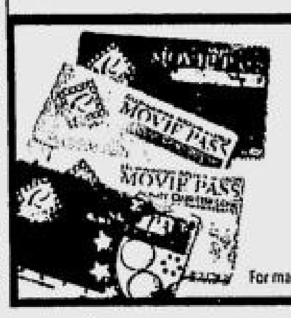

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Nora Aunor back to superlative . . .

From page F1

woman? Has she lost sight of her dreams forever?

In recent years, the Superstar's distinctly attention-calling acting mannerisms have blighted her reputation as the country's premier actress. And, while many of her highly anticipated starrers were well-intentioned, they were nevertheless overwrought tearjerkers or middling dramas that featured self-conscious, inconsistent performances.

Result: That "acting *na* acting" schtick has made Aunor fodder for impersonation—gay or otherwise.

Long overdue

"Ingrata" marks Nora's long overdue return to superlative thespic form—she looks natural and relaxed. Look, Ma, no grunts this time! She delivers an indelible performance that would be hard to beat in next year's acting derbies. Indeed, at her peak, no one inhabits a character better than *La* Aunor—and we couldn't be happier for the embattled actress! Don't miss the movie if only for *Ate* Guy's latest dramatic triumph.

AUNOR. Latest thespic triumph.

The film, however, isn't as successful. As with most digital productions shown locally, its production values leave much to be desired: A sequence shows Aunor singing "Kahit na Magtiis" at the videoke bar where her character works, but for most of it, we only hear instrumental accompaniment—a waste of a golden opportunity to showcase the legendary Superstar's fine voice!

Bernardo, for his part, also comes up with a sensitive performance as the protagonist's brother, who has to worry about more than just his immigration status. The actor has a calming presence.

Unfortunately, Rendez turns in a one-note characterization—you don't understand how a sensitive soul like Bea could fall for someone who doesn't show her any affection.

Visual medium

On point of picture quality, the movie fares better than the recent digital flicks we've seen. But, it's still inferior to many mainstream features—with a couple of distorted images here and there. Digital or not, film is *still* a visual medium, after all. If a movie isn't pleasing to the eyes, then something *must* be wrong somewhere…

Though minor in thematic scope and cinematic ambition and dragged down by inconsistencies in characterization and narrative detail, Gonzales' film shows viewers the darker side of the American Dream—that the face of poverty is the same wherever you are.

As Hermie succinctly explains: "*Iisa ang mukha ng paghihirap—sa Pilipinas man o sa Amerika.*" But, will Bea ever find her way out of her existential quagmire, if and when she is presented with the opportunity for emancipation?

Tyra . . .

From page F5

programs for exceedingly personal ends, and not to subject their guests to attacks that they are relatively powerless to fend off.

Better still, the next time Tyra wants to exorcise the other demons in her life, she ought to get a moderator to handle the discussion, so she doesn't come off as plaintiff, judge *and* executioner on her own show.

That's too much power for one person to wield, and leaves the guest-accused-condemned with precious little opportunity to fight back!

Demons

It's entirely to Naomi Campbell's credit that she decided to roll with the punches instead, and to allow high-strung Tyra to exorcise her real or imagined demons.

Finally, Tyra's tirade serves as a cautionary tale for local program hosts as well, some of whom have similarly used their own shows to get back at people who've gotten on their wrong side.

For instance, we're told that a host whose work we once critiqued lashed back at us by urging us to dip our sock in hot water and drink the resulting "tea."

We had no option to retort, of course, and therein lies the rub in broadcast people's misuse of their power for personal ends.

Operative rule

The operative rule is: You may host your show, but it isn't on the air for you to do with as you please—because, in the final analysis, a show really "belongs" to its listeners or viewers.

If hosts abide by that rule, the public is pleased; if they break it, they're branded as self-centered power-trippers, and consequently lose their objectivity, credibility—and popularity.

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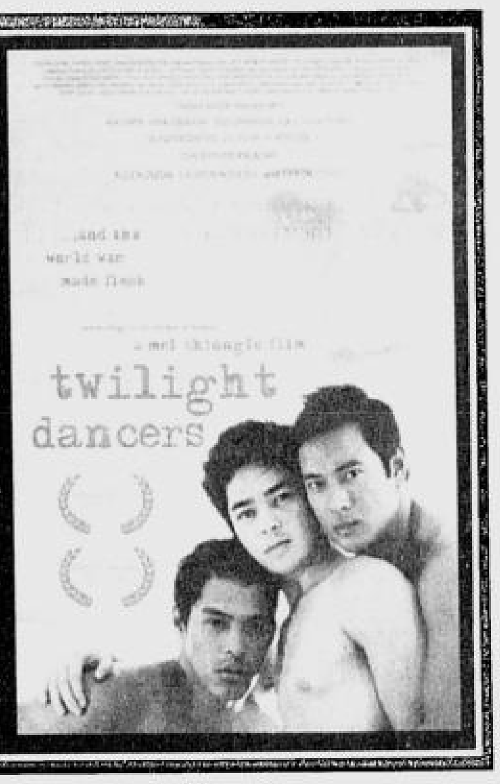

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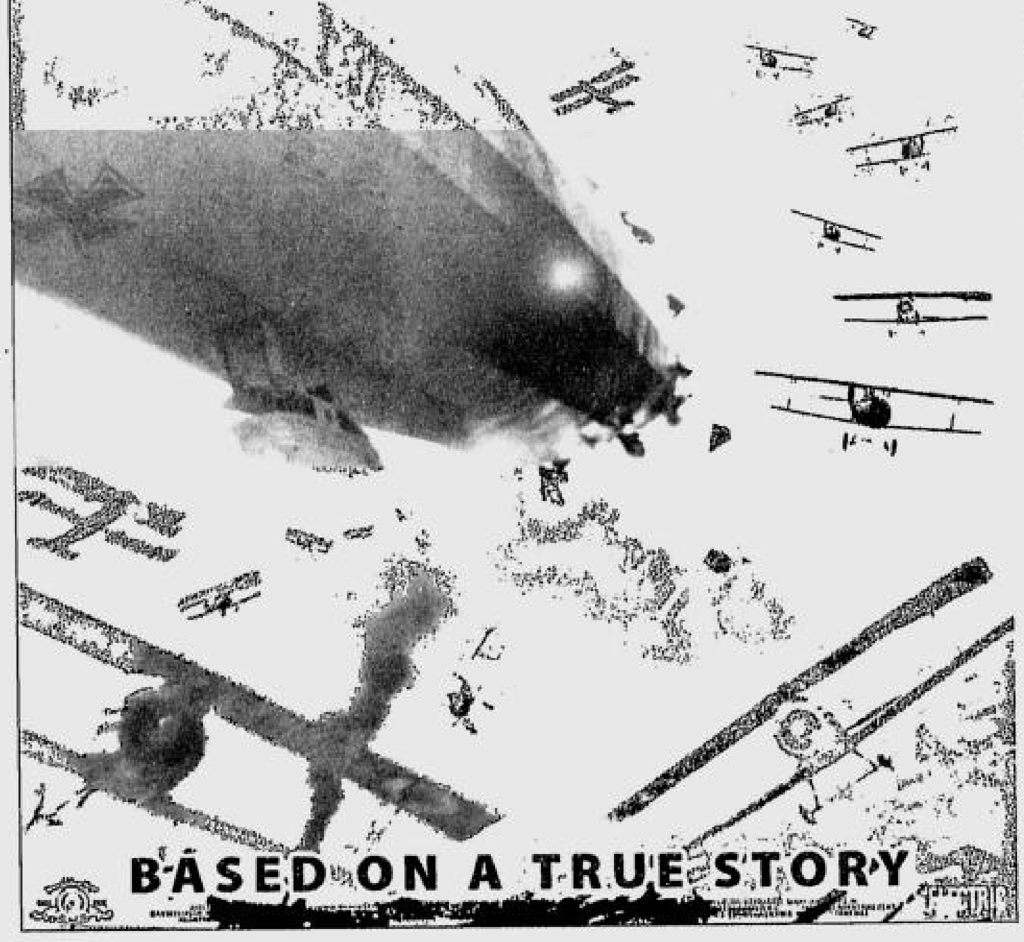

BASED ON A TRUE STORY

FANTASY SHOWS score a direct hit

By Nestor U. Torre

HAVE YOU NOticed? Fantasy adventure series have scored a direct hit with viewers on local TV, with one expensive period, costume and special effects-oriented production following hot on the heels of another.

For example, now that "Majika" is winding up its fanciful storytelling, GMA-7 is immediately trotting out a series with a similar fantasy format, "Atlantika." The new "telefantasya," which starts telecasting on Oct. 2, is set underwater, and fields Dingdong Dantes in its male lead role.

DANTES leads cast of GMA-7's new *telefantasya*, "Atlantika."

Elements

Still on the boob tube are other shows that make extensive use of fantasy elements, like "Super Inggo," "Captain Barbell," "Pedro Penduko" and Mahiwagang Baul."

They have become so popular that they have effectively upstaged other fave TV productions like 10-handkerchief melodramas, series from Korea and Latin America, and kooky comedy romps.

Why do viewers groove to fantasy productions on television? One obvious reason is their visual appeal, with their exotic locations, costumes, hairstyles, sets, props, weapons, special effects, fight scenes and "superhero" exploits—all conspiring to make viewers think that they're getting super-value for the time they spend in front of the TV set.

Predictable

Fact is, however, after the expensive and imaginative production values have been put in place, the *telefantasyas'* storylines are often predictable and stodgily earthbound.

For the nth time, they tell old tales about the fight between good and evil, conflicts between tribes and clans, love fulfilled or betrayed, triangles and other related romantic angles, parent-child relationships, the tattered rich-poor dichotomy, etc.

These predictable storytelling elements end up contradicting the promise of freshness and excitement that the series' visuals make. After watching some fantasy episodes, the viewer soon ceases to be surprised, or even interested.

To make up for that, the *telefantasyas* hedge their bets by opting for a lot of star value. But, the series' predictable stories and characters generally limit what even gifted stars can do with them, so popular luminaries in fantasy series are often reduced to coming up with rote and shallow performances.

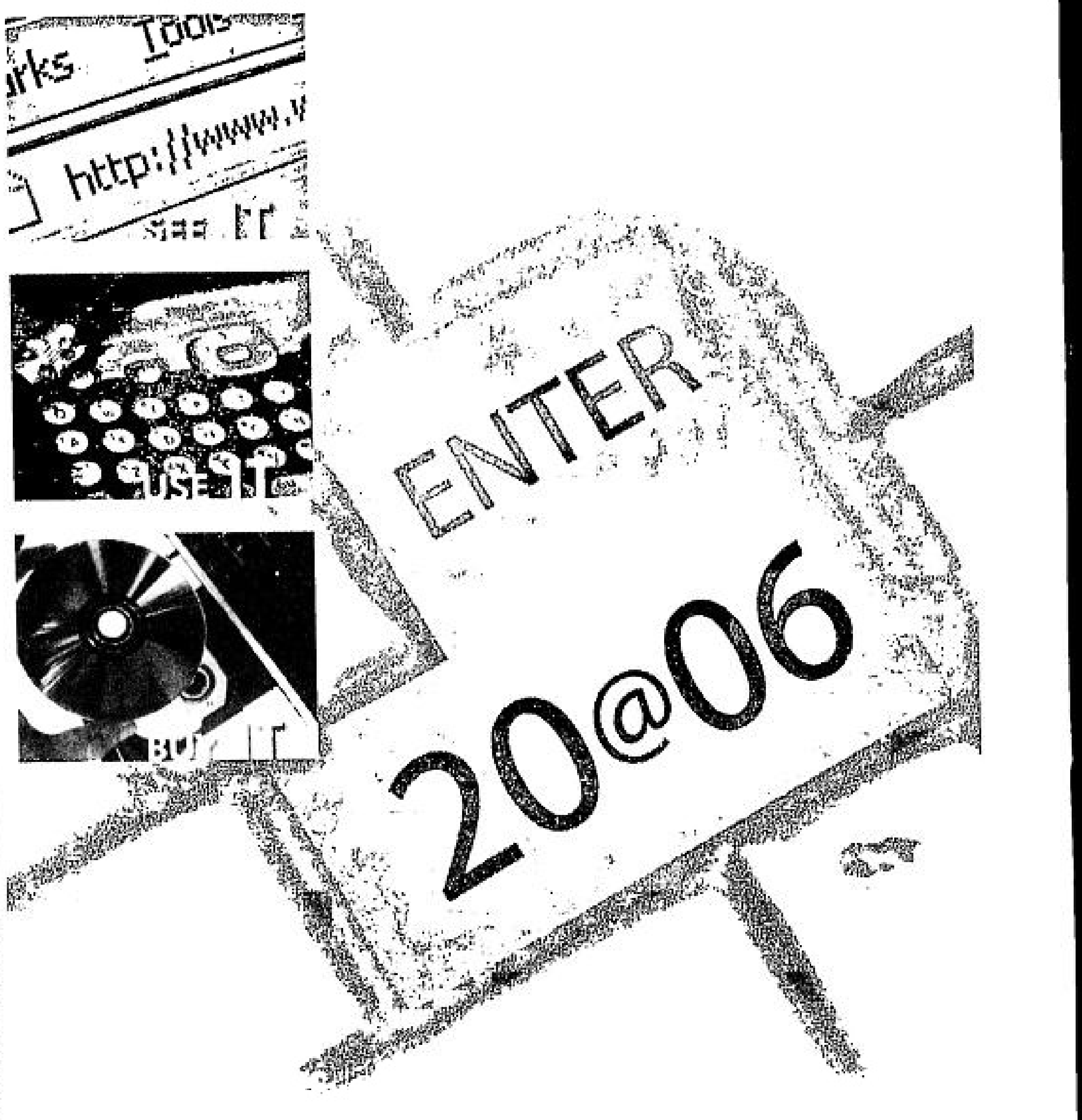
Minus points

Despite these minus points, our TV channels keep churning out fantasy productions because they provide the weeknight fix of popcorn and eye candy that many undemanding viewers yearn for.

This is unfortunate, because fantasy shows encourage viewers to turn escapist and run away from reality. This takes an even sadder turn when they similarly refuse to confront their problems in real life.

The latest development in the fantasy field is the fact that fantasticating effects and storylines have become so popular that they've been appropriated by the advertising industry.

These days, quite a number of TV commercials have gone on fantasy mode, with superheroic characters helping to sell all sorts of products and services. —Goodbye, Narda; hello, Darna?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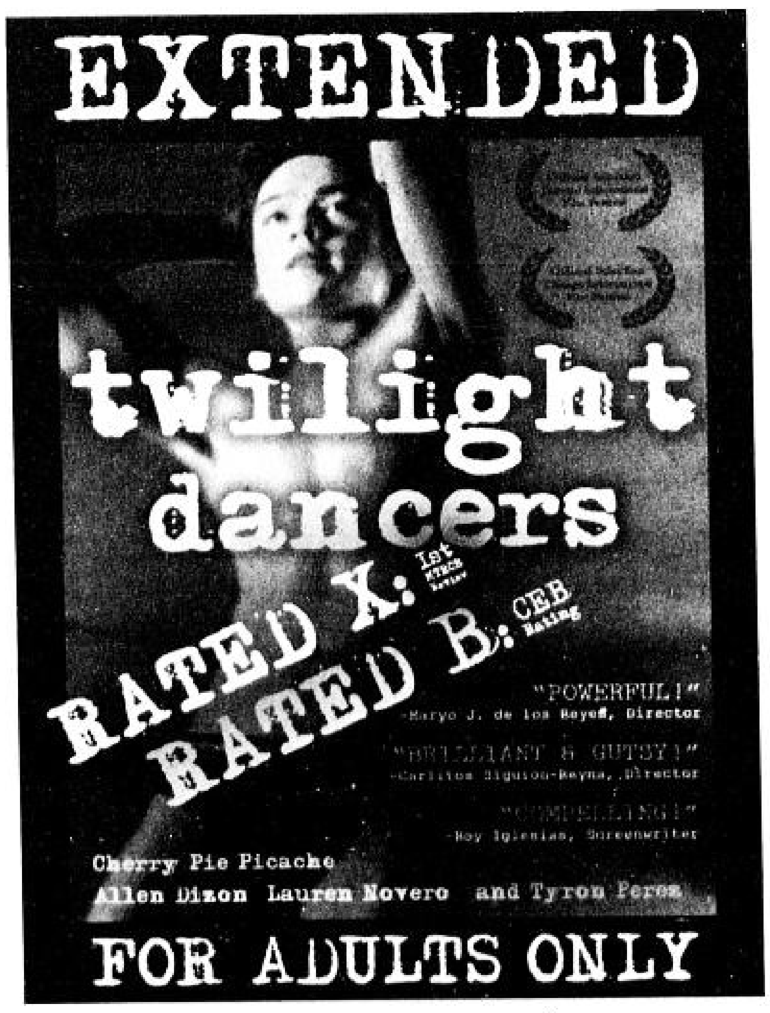
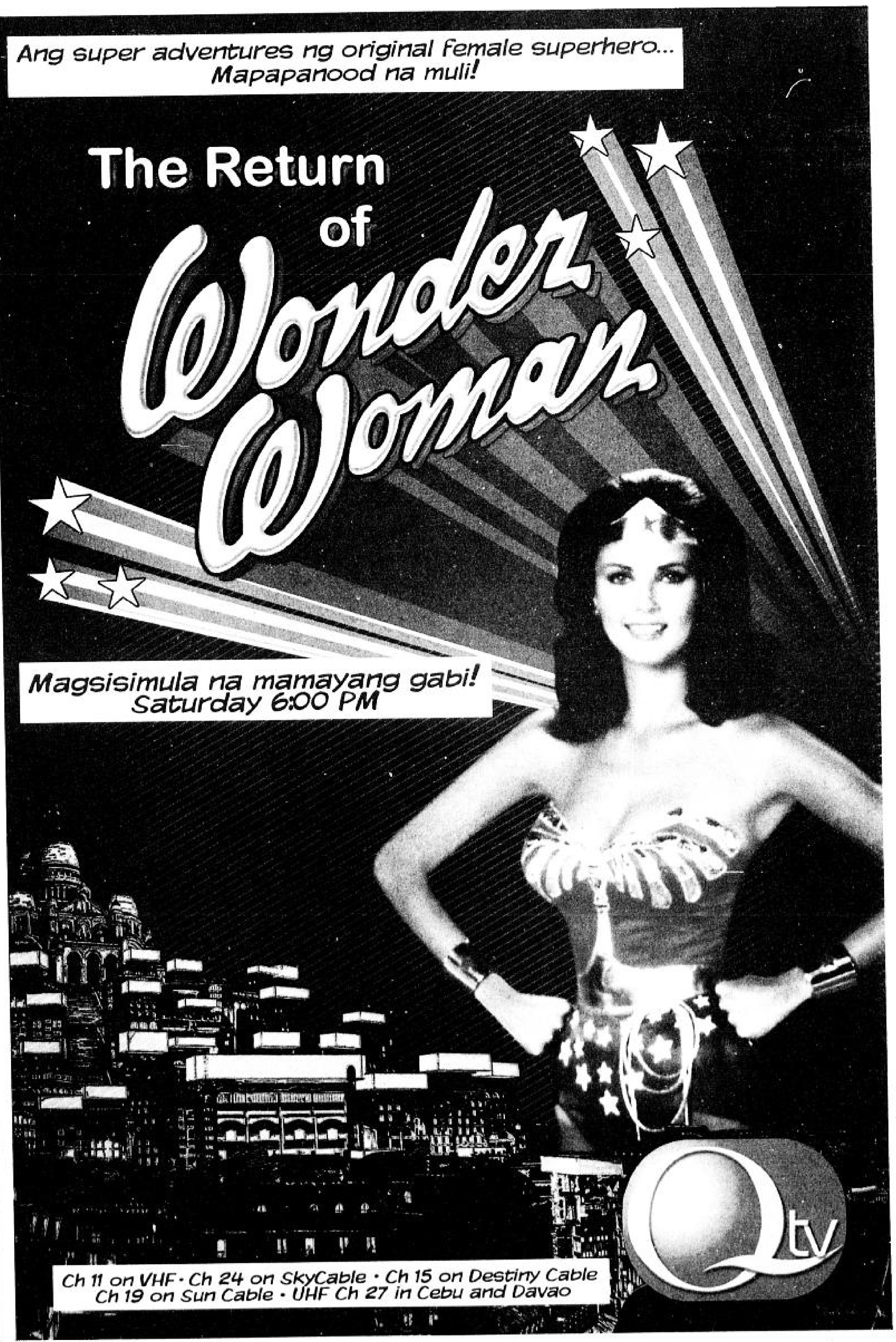
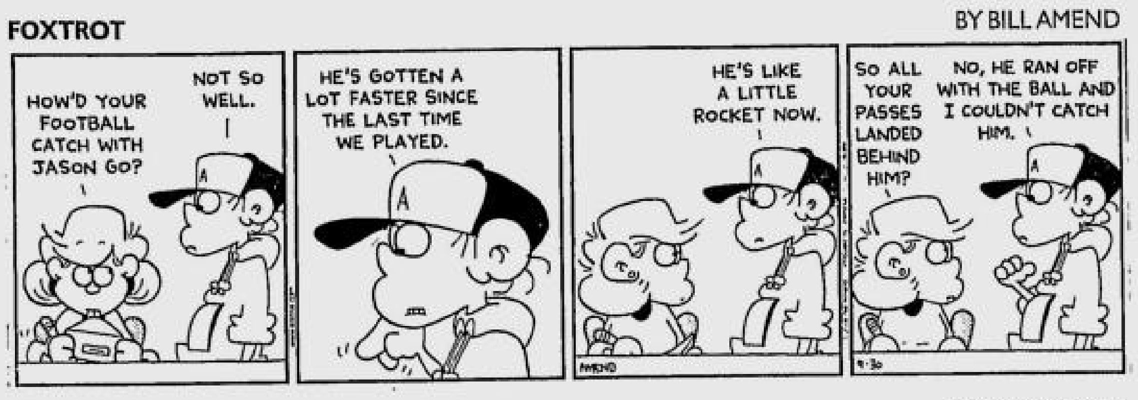
SHANG CINEPLEX
1 ZOOM
MTRCB GP
1:05, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
3 FIRST DAY HIGH
MTRCB GP
12:10, 2:35, 5:00, 7:25, 9:50
2 FLYBOYS
MTRCB PG-13
1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00
4 STEP-UP
MTRCB. PG-13
12.00, 2:30, 5.00, 7.30, 10:00
PREMIERE THEATRE
JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
MTRCB PG-13
1:40, 3:45, 5:50, 7:55, 10:00
Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice
Catch the Cineplex Special
MONDAY AND TUESDAY SPECIALS
On Mondays and Tuesdays, starting August 14, enjoy special prices of P99.00 for Cinemas 1-4, P120 for the Premiere Theatre (exclusive of food and drinks)
Not applicable to selected movies, on holidays, sneak previews and and in conjunction w/ other Shang Cineplex discounts and promos.
Specials last until Nov. 14, 2006. See posters and flyers for details.
Per DTI NCR Permit No. A3 0608, Series of 2006
Call 633-7851, loc. 171 or 633-2227 for more details.
Shangri-La Plaza


EXTENDED
twilight dancers
RATED X: 1st MTRCB Review
RATED B: CEB Rating
"POWERFUL!"
-Maryo J. de los Reyes, Director
"BRILLIANT & GUTSY!"
-Carlitos Siguion-Reyna, Director
"COMPELLING!"
-Roy Iglesias, Screenwriter
Cherry Pie Picache
Allen Dizon Lauren Novero and Tyron Perez
FOR ADULTS ONLY


Ang super adventures ng original female superhero...
Mapapanood na muli!
The Return of Wonder Woman
Magsisimula na mamayang gabi!
Saturday 6:00 PM
Ch 11 on VHF • Ch 24 on SkyCable • Ch 15 on Destiny Cable
Ch 19 on Sun Cable • UHF Ch 27 in Cebu and Davao
Qtv

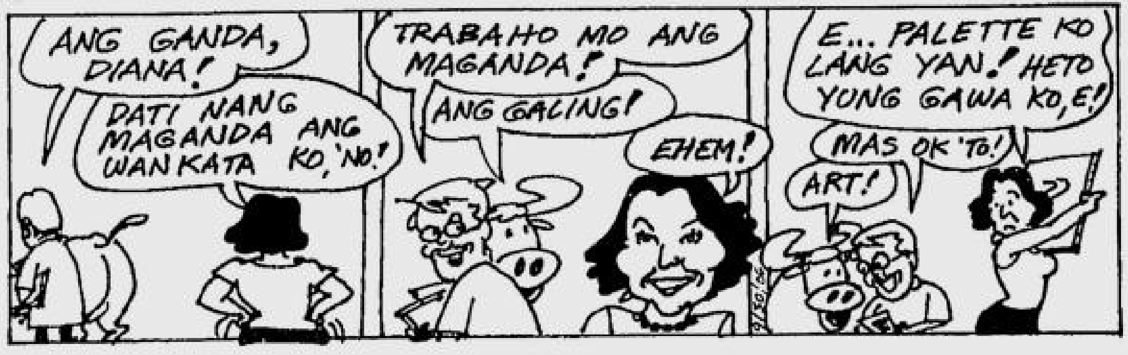
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


HOW'D YOUR FOOTBALL CATCH WITH JASON GO?
NOT SO WELL.
HE'S GOTTEN A LOT FASTER SINCE THE LAST TIME WE PLAYED.
HE'S LIKE A LITTLE ROCKET NOW.
SO ALL YOUR PASSES LANDED BEHIND HIM?
NO, HE RAN OFF WITH THE BALL AND I COULDN'T CATCH HIM.
AMEND
9-30

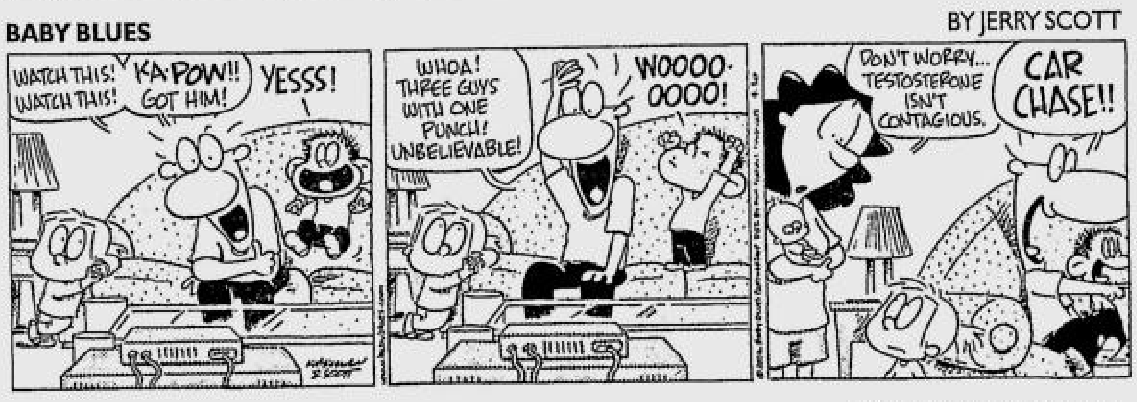
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


ANG GANDA, DIANA!
DATI NANG MAGANDA ANG WAN KATA KO, 'NO!
TRABAHO MO ANG MAGANDA!
ANG GALING!
EHEM!
E... PALETTE KO LANG YAN! HETO YUNG GAWA KO, E!
MAS OK 'TO!
ART!

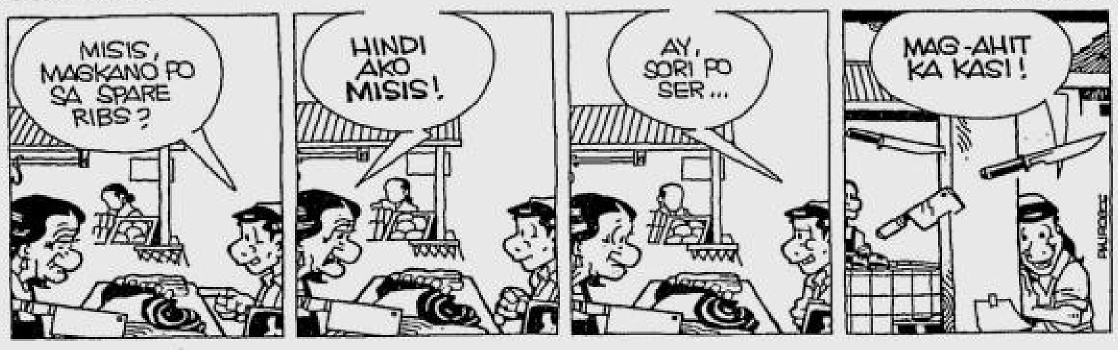
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


WATCH THIS! WATCH THIS!
KA-POW!! GOT HIM!
YESSS!
WHOA! THREE GUYS WITH ONE PUNCH! UNBELIEVABLE!
WOOOO-OOOO!
DON'T WORRY... TESTOSTERONE ISN'T CONTAGIOUS.
CAR CHASE!!
KIRKMAN SCOTT

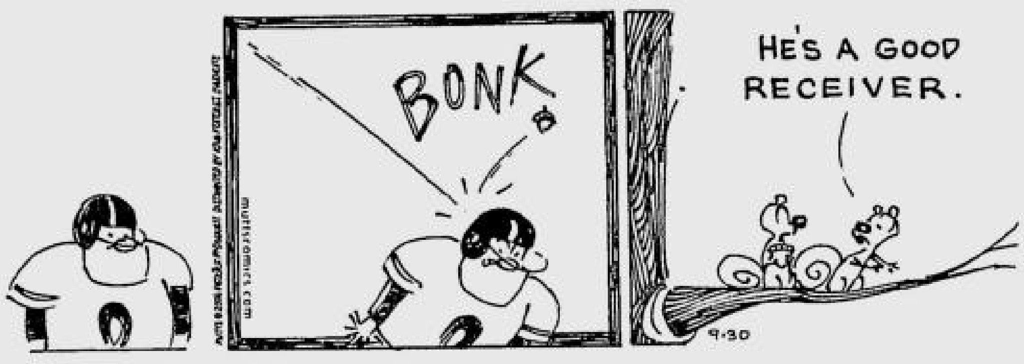
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


MISIS, MAGKANO PO SA SPARE RIBS?
HINDI AKO MISIS!
AY, SORI PO SER...
MAG-AHIT KA KASI!

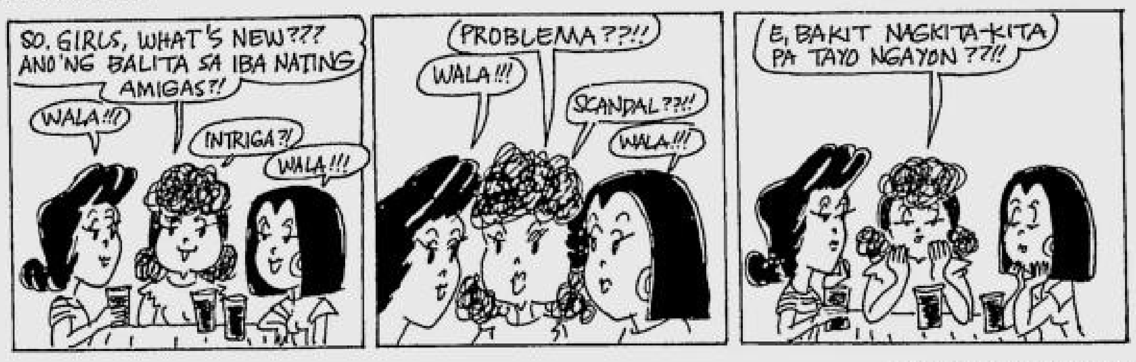
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


BONK
HE'S A GOOD RECEIVER.
muttscomics.com
9-30

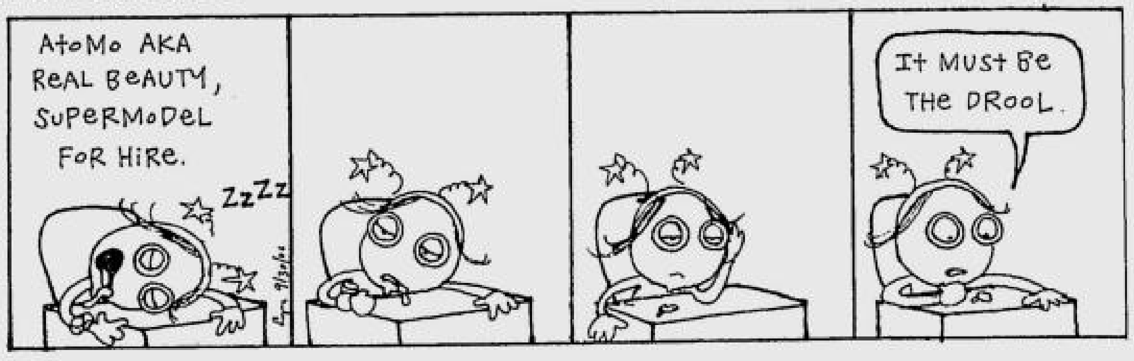
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


SO, GIRLS, WHAT'S NEW??? ANO'NG BALITA SA IBA NATING AMIGAS?!
WALA!!!
INTRIGA?!
WALA!!!
PROBLEMA??!!
WALA!!!
SCANDAL??!!
WALA!!!
E, BAKIT NAGKITA-KITA PA TAYO NGAYON??!!

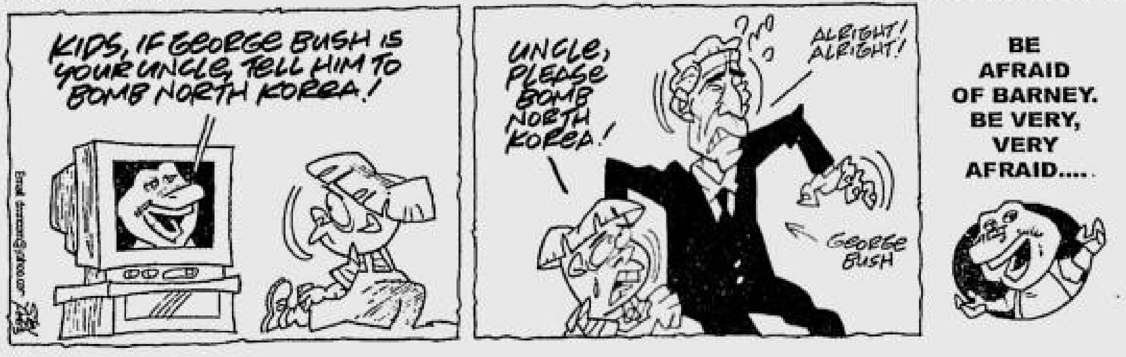
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


AtoMo AKA ReAL BeAUTY, SuPeRModeL FoR HiRe.
ZzZz
It MusT Be The DRooL.

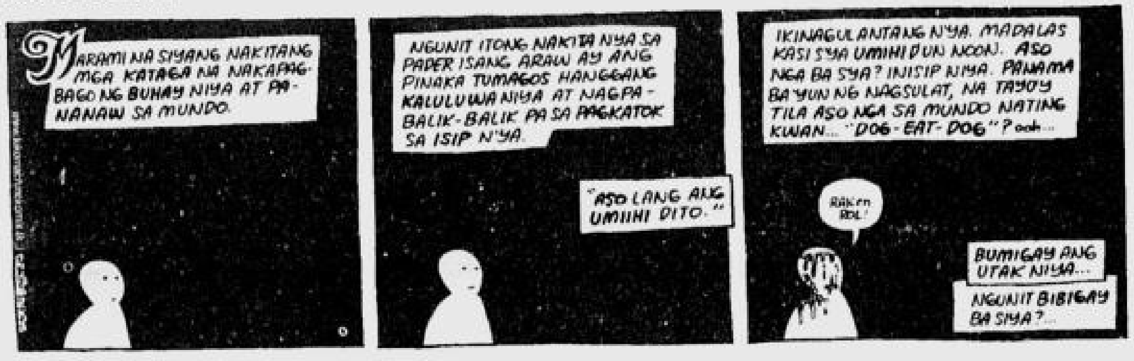
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


KIDS, IF GEORGE BUSH IS YOUR UNCLE, TELL HIM TO BOMB NORTH KOREA!
UNCLE, PLEASE BOMB NORTH KOREA!
ALRIGHT! ALRIGHT!
GEORGE BUSH
BE AFRAID OF BARNEY. BE VERY, VERY AFRAID.....

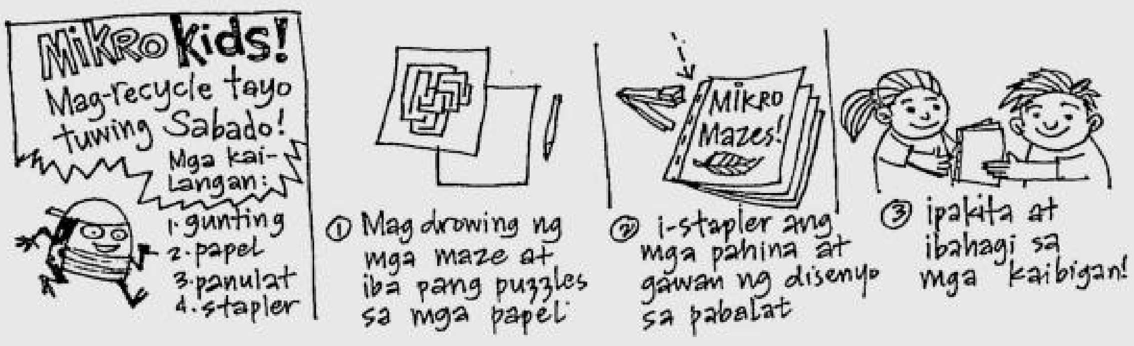
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


MARAMI NA SIYANG NAKITANG MGA KATAGA NA NAKAPAG-BAGO NG BUHAY NIYA AT PA-NANAW SA MUNDO.
NGUNIT ITONG NAKITA NYA SA PADER ISANG ARAW AY ANG PINAKA TUMAGOS HANGGANG KALULUWA NIYA AT NAGPA-BALIK-BALIK PA SA PAGKATOK SA ISIP N'YA.
"ASO LANG ANG UMIIHI DITO."
IKINAGULANTANG NYA. MADALAS KASI SYA UMIHI DUN NOON. ASO NGA BA SYA? INISIP NIYA. PANAMA BA 'YUN NG NAGSULAT, NA TAYO'Y TILA ASO NGA SA MUNDO NATING KWAN... "DOG-EAT-DOG"? ooh...
RAKEN ROL!
BUMIGAY ANG UTAK NIYA...
NGUNIT BIBIGAY BA SIYA?...

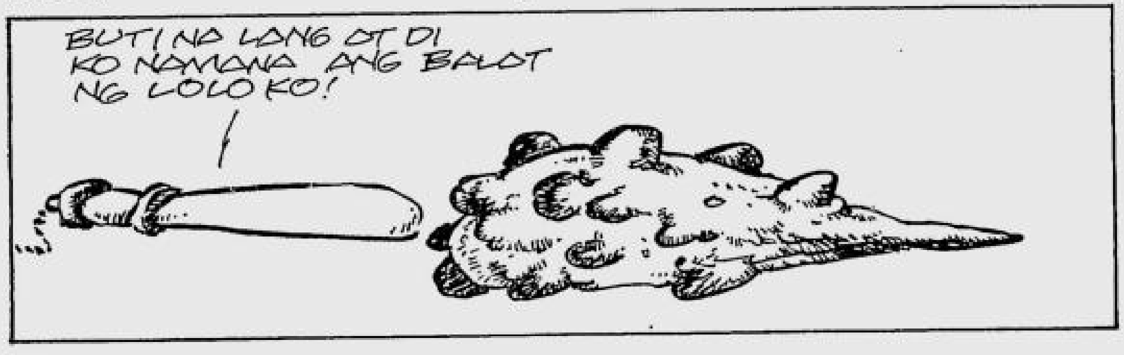
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


MiKRo Kids!
Mag-recycle tayo tuwing Sabado!
Mga kai-langan:
1. gunting
2. papel
3. panulat
4. stapler
① Mag drowing ng mga maze at iba pang puzzles sa mga papel
MiKRO Mazes!
② i-stapler ang mga pahina at gawan ng disenyo sa pabalat
③ ipakita at ibahagi sa mga kaibigan!

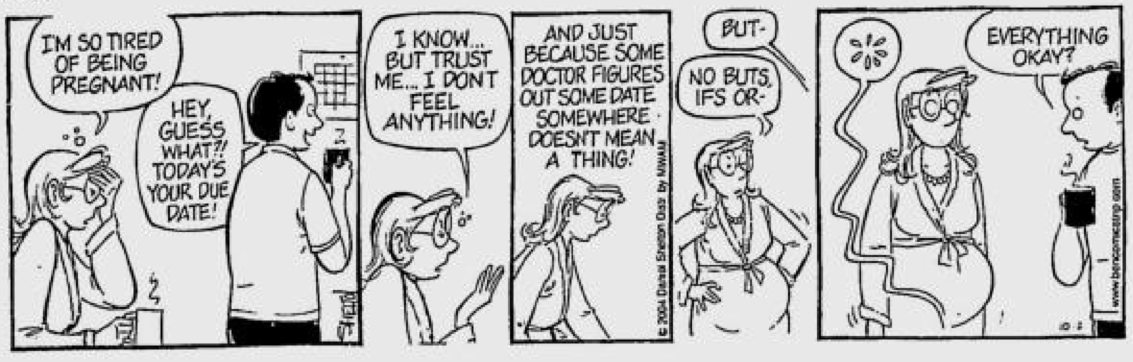
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


BUTI NA LANG AT DI KO NAMANA ANG BALOT NG LOLO KO!

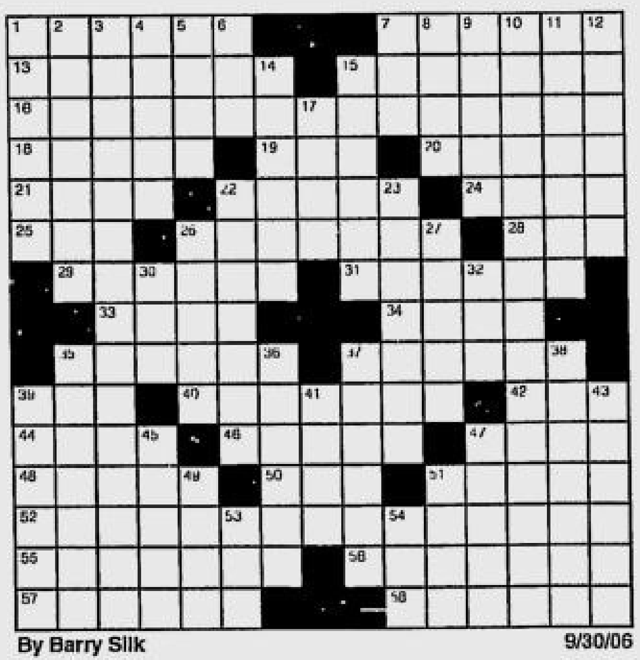
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


I'M SO TIRED OF BEING PREGNANT!
HEY, GUESS WHAT?! TODAY'S YOUR DUE DATE!
I KNOW... BUT TRUST ME... I DON'T FEEL ANYTHING!
AND JUST BECAUSE SOME DOCTOR FIGURES OUT SOME DATE SOMEWHERE DOESN'T MEAN A THING!
BUT-
NO BUTS, IFS OR-
EVERYTHING OKAY?

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Showy parrots
7 Execrable
13 Orbital extremes
15 Light amber brew
16 Citizen's Bank Park denizen
18 Like windows
19 Forensics letters
20 Rugged ridge
21 Coal or opal ending
22 Floor support
24 CCLXIII quadrupled
25 God, to da Vinci
26 Transgressors
28 D-Day vessel
29 Nissan model
31 Nincompoop
33 Willingly, once
34 Partially carbonized moss
35 Affected by pathogens
37 Quick to learn
39 Comfy shoe
40 Blows out
42 __ es Salaam
44 Harmony part, perhaps
46 Big name in copiers
47 In __ (undisturbed)
48 Train tracks
50 Poppycock!
51 Leaning Tower local
52 "The Patty Duke Show" neighborhood
55 Of tongues
56 Reversion of property to the state
57 Mickey Mouse courses
58 Target with a throw



By Barry Silk
McLean, VA

9/30/06

DOWN
1 Charted
2 Loss of language ability
3 Numismatists' holdings
4 Joyous, in poetry
5 Tuesday in Hollywood
6 Six in Siena
7 White House initials: 1881-85
8 Arm bone
9 Upgrade guns
10 Wide receivers?
11 Upper cruster
12 Double dealing
14 Spiritual Arizona town
15 Synchronized
17 Nabokov novel
22 "The Complete Book of Running" writer
23 Multiscreen cinema
26 Tres y cuatro
27 Pintail ducks
30 Reward for waiting
32 Computer music format
35 Sun rooms
36 Ladd or Tiegs
37 Put into gear?
38 Sound of gunfire
39 Statuary stone
41 Presley's middle name
43 Totals
45 Branch of science: suff.
47 Audible breaths
49 Predatory shorebird
51 Printer's measure
53 __ Cruces, NM
54 Psychic's gift

Friday's Puzzle Solved

P	A	P	A	S		G	R	I	N		W	E	B	S
A	D	E	L	E		A	O	N	E		E	R	I	C
M	O	N	T	E		L	O	C	H		D	U	K	E
		T	A	K	E	S	F	O	R	A	S	P	I	N
C	L	A	R	E	T			M	U	M		T	N	T
H	U	G		R	H	Y	M	E		O	A	S	I	S
A	L	O	E		N	E	O		H	U	M			
R	U	N	S	R	I	N	G	S	A	R	O	U	N	D
			S	A	C		U	R	N		K	N	E	E
L	O	P	E	Z		C	L	I	N	G		D	A	N
A	L	A		E	L	I			A	U	G	U	R	Y
G	I	V	E	S	I	T	A	W	H	I	R	L		
E	V	I	L		B	R	I	E		L	E	A	S	E
R	I	N	K		R	U	D	E		D	A	T	E	S
S	A	G	S		A	S	A	P		S	T	E	E	P

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9/30/06

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're curious about everything in life. Furthermore, you're knowledgeable. You always seek out the truth of any situation. Others are attracted to you and want to be in your circle. Your appearance often attracts attention. You appear tough, but you're tender. You're good with money. You're both sympathetic and aggressive. Focus on partnerships and your closest friendships this year.

Birthdate of: Fran Drescher, actress; Angie Dickinson, actress; Truman Capote, writer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Today fair Venus moves opposite your sign, where it will stay for the next three weeks. This improves all your relations with others, especially partners and close friends.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): In the month ahead, you can expect increasing friendliness and support from coworkers. You might also feel better about your job in general.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Love affairs, romance and friendly flirtations will definitely increase in the month ahead. (Flirting is the gentle art of making somebody else feel attractive.)

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): The next six weeks are a perfect time to buy things to make where you live look more beautiful. Do some redecorating. Buy fresh flowers. Give family members gifts.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): In the month ahead, you'll enjoy beauty in your daily surroundings. In fact, you might see just how much love there is in your daily life.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You're full of moneymaking ideas! Now you want to spend some money! Shopping for goodies for yourself and loved ones will please you in the next few weeks.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Today fair Venus moves into your sign. This makes you look more attractive. Venus will stay there for three weeks. This is the perfect time to shop for your wardrobe. (Hey, you like what you see in the mirror!)

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Solitude in beautiful surroundings will please you now. You need some rest and relaxation. Learn to take it easy so that you can work harder and smarter later.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Enjoy a timeout with friends, groups and organizations. People are glad to see you during the next few weeks. (You are loved.) This is also a good time to enroll in a course or take up some kind of new study.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Some of you might develop a crush on your boss at this time. Meanwhile, people think you look great; in fact, someone envies you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Your appreciation of beauty is heightened in the next month. Because of this, try to see more beauty. Visit galleries, boutiques, museums, parks and beautiful places.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Gifts and goodies tend to come your way during the next six weeks! Keep your pockets open. (And just say thank you.)

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

by Dave Green

					5	2	8	9
	7				9			1
					3			7
					1	3	9	8
9	8	5	6					
5			2					
1			3				4	
4	9	6	8					

Difficulty Level ★★★★

9/30

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

7	3	1	9	2	8	5	4	6
5	4	2	3	6	1	8	9	7
6	9	8	5	4	7	2	3	1
3	2	9	7	1	6	4	8	5
4	1	7	8	5	3	9	6	2
8	5	6	2	9	4	1	7	3
9	7	5	6	8	2	3	1	4
1	8	3	4	7	5	6	2	9
2	6	4	1	3	9	7	5	8

Difficulty Level ★★★★

De-fanged version of biting revenge comedy

By Noelani Torre

FROM ITS TITLE ALONE, YOU can already infer that the movie, "John Tucker Must Die," has something to do with teenagers—that it's probably set in a high school, and that somebody is going to be taught a lesson.

So, who exactly is John Tucker, and why must he die? Tucker (played by Jesse Metcalfe, Eva Longoria's gardener/lover on "Desperate Housewives") is the acknowledged "campus king" of Forest Hills High.

Greek god

Rich and good-looking—"a cross between an Abercrombie model and a Greek god," sighs one character—Tucker is also captain of the basketball team, and happens to be dating three girls at the same time.

Head cheerleader Heather (R&B star Ashanti), vegan animal rights activist Beth (Sophia Bush), and I'm-going-to-Harvard Carrie (Arielle Kebbel), all think that they're John's one and only. (*Secret* one and only, that is, since John artfully says he's not allowed to have a girlfriend during basketball season.)

New-girl-in-town Kate (Brittany Snow), however, is privy to the truth, thanks to her job as a waitress at the town's only restaurant. When a combined gym class acts as a catalyst toward the spilling of the beans, and the resultant catfight lands all four girls in detention, she becomes more than just an innocent bystander.

"JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE." Don't get mad, get even!

Kate—who's watched her own mother break her heart over a series of John Tucker types—tells the other girls not to get mad—but to get even! They latch on to the idea with all the fury of three women scorned.

This is still a PG-13 movie, though, and targeted toward the preteen crowd. So, no, John Tucker *doesn't* die. The only death being planned here is the demise of his social life.

No matter what socially embarrassing situations they land him in, however, he always comes out of it smelling like roses.

Sudden popularity

Frustrated, the scorned girls decide to make him fall in love with the "invisible" Kate, who will then break his heart. The series of scenes that follow—the makeover, the carefully engineered dates, and the sudden popularity that seduces Kate into ignoring her conscience—play out as expected.

As you can probably tell by now, despite the snazzy title, this isn't a breakaway kind of teen comedy.

The plot is hardly original, and the script itself doesn't do much to liven it up. Written by Jeff Lowell ("Spin City"), the funny scenes are few and far between, and the dialogue is only mildly spiced up by one-liners here and there.

In fact, the movie's flavor is altogether too mild when, in fact, it *should* be much meaner.

Embarrassing situation

Everybody here is just too nice. Tucker, though obviously a cad, has a great deal of chutzpah you can't help but admire. By turning every embarrassing situation to his own personal advantage, he unwittingly outwits the scorned trio.

The movie feels like a defanged version of the sharp and biting revenge comedy it could have been.

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Before
After

MTRCB RATING R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE.
FLESH-RIPPING.
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RECORD-BREAKING.
MAN'S BEST FRIEND IS HIS WORST NIGHTMARE.
A WES CRAVEN PRODUCTION
THE BREED
DIRECTED BY NICK MASTANDREA
NOW SHOWING

VIVA

Excesses, abuses in broadcasting scored

By Behn Cervantes

STRANGE THINGS ARE BEING practiced in local broadcast media these days for reasons unclear to me.

To begin with, many television hosts and announcers mistake energy and verve for volume. So, whether they're updating viewers about traffic, the latest market prices, or the hottest show biz gossip, these TV personalities scream the headlines—even on noontime and game shows!

Personal bias

Whoever thought this approach was acceptable? Whatever happened to the calm and reserved newscasters who relayed the news without slant or personal bias? Newscasters of the Old School never dreamed of imposing their opinions about current events and controversial issues.

Malpractice

TV and radio station managers have allowed this malpractice to fester: We now hear newscasters making asides or grunting to accentuate their bias on issues.

And, they don't merely impose their opinions, they shout them! Whatever happened to the power of the microphone? Wasn't it invented to amplify the voice—so people need not scream?

CASTRO AND MONZON-PALMA. The news rather than the personality.

Obviously, these people have not learned from the likes of Tina Monzon-Palma, Angelo Castro Jr. and Mari Kaimo—or, from Jo San Diego and Tita Muñoz in the 1950s—who relay the news objectively. These anchors' *sotto voce* delivery allows viewers to focus on the news rather than personality. In the case of the screaming announcers, the messenger becomes more important than the news.

Deliberate

With some newscasters, I suspect that this is deliberate. By creating distinct personalities, they can later pursue their political ambitions.

Furthermore, reporting about the country's most famous personalities lend them importance—they even call their subjects by their nicknames, as if they were the best of friends, which puts them on equal footing. Thus, they "gain" the stature and prestige of the people they talk about. On the other hand, politicians give them importance to curry media favor.

It's no wonder why there's prevalent talk about the AC/DC practice of dubious media personalities who, first, accuse bigwigs of wrongdoing, then collect from them. Soon after, they defend them—*and* collect from them again! Such is the power of media these days.

Fundamental rules

Some announcers follow the in-your-face approach to copy styles of more successful colleagues —even if this is against the fundamental rules of broadcasting.

Visibility and constant exposure allow them to cross over to the world of politics, even if their only qualification is name recall.

Isn't it about time we put an end to this confounding state of affairs??

GREENHILLS CINEMAS
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA
THEATRE MALL GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 1 FIRST DAY HIGH 11:05, 1:30, 3:55 6:20, 8:50 PG-13
CINEMA 2 DEAD OR ALIVE 12:40, 2:45, 4:50 6:55 9:00 PG-13
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND EX
PROMENADE GREENHILLS
...a dinetertainment for all!
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 3 STEP UP 12:40, 3:10, 5:40 8:10, 10:35 PG-13
CINEMA 4 ZOOM 11:10, 1:25, 3:35 5:45, 7:55, 10:10 GP
CINEMA 5 FLYBOYS 10:35, 1:35, 4:35 7:35, 10:35 PG-13
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.
MUSIC MUSEUM
OCT. 07, 2006 AKAFELLAS 8:00 PM
OCT. 13, 2006 GENEVA C, AIZA S, TRUEFAITH, JAY R, CHOKOLATE, JAY-R 8:00 PM
TEATRINO
PROMENADE GREENHILLS
EVERY MONDAY DANCE NIGHT 7:00PM
EVERY WEDNESDAY CERRUDO . CLASSICO 8:00PM
SEPT. 21, 28, OCT. 12, 26, 28 ISAY ALVAREZ & ROBERT SENA 8:30 PM
OCT. 7, 14, 21, 2006 AYEN LAUREL & RAYMUND LAUCHENGCO 8:00 PM
FOR INQUIRIES PLS CALL 722-4532 LOC 116
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635

Tyra exorcises her 'Naomi demon'

By Nestor U. Torre

TYRA BANKS' TALK SHOW (shown here on the ETC. Channel) recently became the venue for a most unusual and disturbing confrontation—between her and older top model Naomi Campbell.

It turns out that, for many years now, Tyra has been harboring a huge grudge against Naomi. The way Tyra explained it, when she broke into modeling, there was an unwritten rule that only one black woman could be included in the list of Top 10 models in the world—and *that* woman was Naomi!

In other words, as Tyra recalled it on her show, Naomi guarded her top status with a passion bordering on frenzy, and told her off in no uncertain terms.

Emotional cruelty

The emotional cruelty affected Tyra deeply, which is why, when she got her own TV show, she decided to use it to exorcise her "Naomi demon."

Surprisingly, Campbell agreed to appear on the show. Little did she know what the program's hostess had in store for her.

The first disturbing sign was the absence of a studio audience. The rows of empty seats intimated that Tyra wanted the day's show to be focused only on her and her guest, so they could be painfully truthful with each other.

Only problem

Well, that's exactly what happened, as Tyra raked up the past in excruciatingly fine detail. The only problem was, it placed Naomi in a defensive position throughout the long tirade that Tyra launched against her.

We understand Tyra's hurt and pain. But, we submit that, being the show's hostess, she shouldn't have used that key advantage so emotionally, leaving Naomi with little to do except deny some of her more outrageous charges, and apologize for the negative actuations that she did recall engaging in.

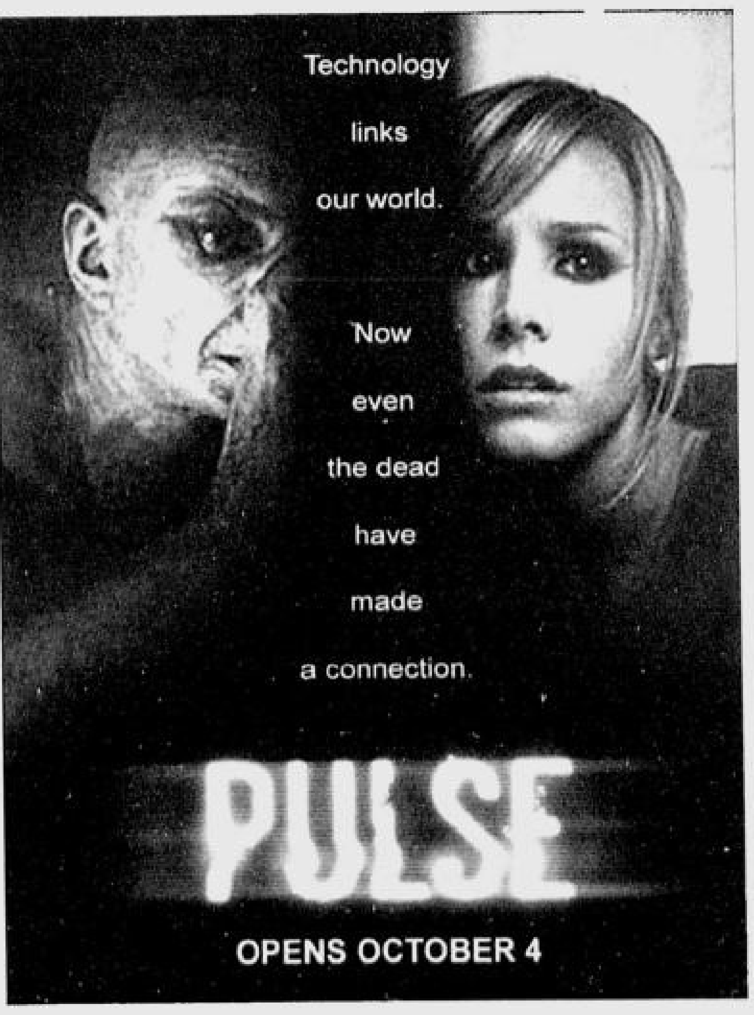
In the end, Tyra may have indeed exorcised her "Naomi demon," but we admired Naomi more for keeping her cool and tolerating Tyra's anger with maturity and understanding.

BANKS AND CAMPBELL. Grudge turns into a most unusual and disturbing showdown.

And we must note that, even after decades of stardom in the modeling world, Naomi still looked great—even better than the younger Tyra.

We trust that this episode of Tyra Banks' show will serve as a cautionary warning for other TV hosts not to use their own

TYRA/ F2



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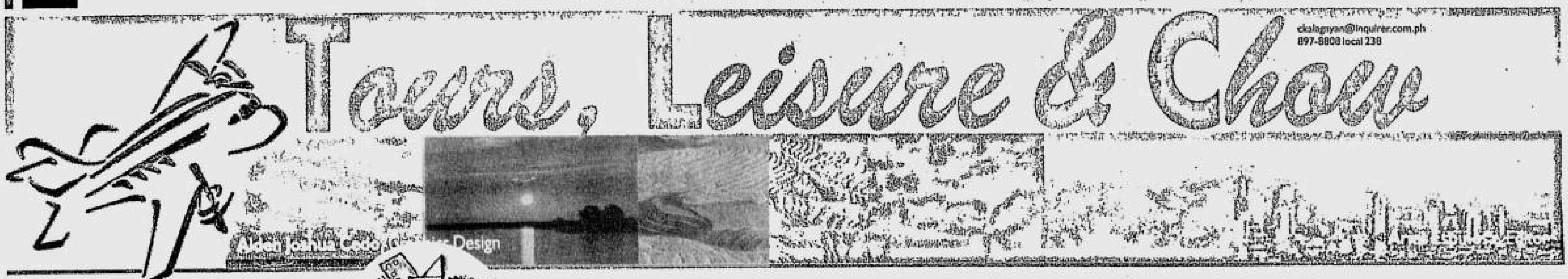

Alden Joshua Codo ... Design

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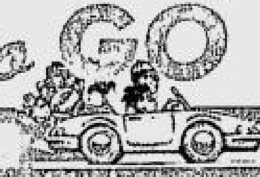

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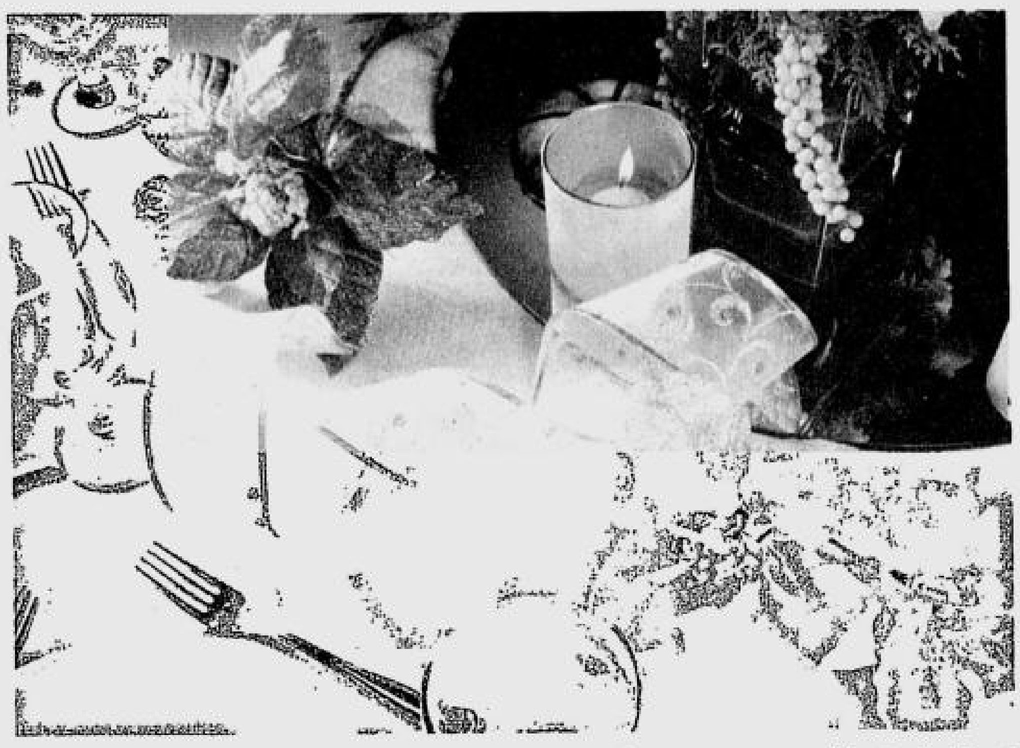
Planning a Christmas Party? Make it grand...Make it Dusit



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- Christmas centerpieces
- Ice carving for the buffet table

Note: Amenities and quantity of each of the above varies in reference to the number of guaranteed guests.

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Waterfront completes first phase of renovation

WATERFRONT CEBU CITY HOTEL & CASINO (WCCHC), the flagship property of Waterfront Hotels and Casinos, successfully completed the first phase of its "Bigger, Better, Newer Rooms" project, the company's P60 million room and suite enhancement program. The first phase of the renovation included floors 3, 5, 6, 7 and 8. With this latest development, 121 newly renovated Superior rooms are now available for guest use.

The company recently broke ground with its second phase, which comprises the refurbishment of floors 5 and 6 in the Casino Block and the 12th floor. By the last quarter of 2006, the Hotel will re-open one hundred and seven (107) more newly renovated guest rooms and suites. The major project will result to one hundred and seventy nine (179) revamped Superior Rooms, sixteen (16) all-new Junior Suites, twenty-nine (29) Executive Suites, three (3) new Bridal Suites, four (4) Family Suites and the enhancement of its 2 Presidential suites.

Hotel management turned to renowned and celebrated architect and interior designer Anton G. Mendoza of J. Antonio Mendoza Architects Manila for the design and renovation of the Executive, Bridal, Family and Presidential Suites.

A number of significant furniture pieces were designed by the Philippine's internationally acclaimed furniture designer Kenneth Cobonpue. Fabrics were flown in from Spain, and bathroom fixtures were bought all the way from Italy.

A new guest room centerpiece, to be launched along with the newly renovated rooms is the new Waterfront signature bed, fittingly referred to as the "Slumber Splendor Bed". Designed to give guests ultra-comfort, where sleep is likened to 'dreaming on a cotton cloud', with fluffy duvet covers of 100 percent Egyptian cotton, 300 thread count bed linens, a premium mattress and 6 feathery soft goose-down pillows.

Among other new room features is a well-designed workspace which included a computer and fax machine, flat panel and Plasma televisions, and a rainshower bath, among others. Exciting new elements have been designed to tailor fit the Hotel's new suite room categories according to their functions: Bridal, Family and Executive Suites.

To inhibit any possible inconvenience, noise or disturbance throughout the guest floors, renovation work is set from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. only. The second phase of the renovation targets actual room turn over by November of this year.

Always Fresh Mooncakes? Yes, only at LUK YUEN!

Now homestyle-baked mooncakes are available at Luk Yuen Noodle House.

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They come either as *singles* at P48 each or *boxed* (6 pieces) at P268.

Held every 15th day of the 8th month in the lunar calendar (Oct. 6 this year), the Mooncake Festival commemorates the successful Chinese uprising against Mongol invaders in the 13th-century. Secret messages sealed in mooncakes united the Chinese against them.

Today mooncakes symbolize unity, and are given to family and friends to ensure togetherness and success.

***Share* Luk Yuen's Special Mooncake. *Call* Glorietta II: 867-1394/1395; Cash & Carry: 843-2061/887-0687; Magallanes: 853-7600/6966; Greenhills Shopping Center: 721-2620/2685; SM Megamall Bldg. B: 633-1610/4396; Makati Supermart (Alabang): 772-3028/4967.**

26 years and still cooking!

What now, *Regine Velasquez?*

By Nestor U. Torre

IT'S BEEN SOME 20 YEARS since Regine Velasquez launched her professional performing career. As a pretty newcomer and singing champion, she impressed audiences with her powerful voice and high notes.

At first, however, her image as a performer was a bit of a blur. Her mentors dressed her in outfits designed to make her look sophisticated and classy, but their "padded shoulder" look also made her resemble a female football linebacker.

Visual kinks

Despite the visual kinks, Regine's singing career rose steadily, and she soon tried her hand at something new for her—movie acting. Alas, she did less well at her new sideline, because she didn't photograph all that beautifully.

There was nothing wrong with her looks, the problem appeared to be with her eyes, which appeared to look a bit *banlag* (wall-eyed) on the silver screen.

So, after appearing in some teen flicks, Regine put her movie career on hold, and concentrated on singing and recording. With her wide range and powerful high register, she was a clear winner.

In time, however, Regine was criticized for her relentlessly *birit* (belting) style of singing. It was impressive, but also predictable, trying-hard and artistically limiting.

Her defenders argued that Regine was simply giving her audience what it wanted—vocal pyrotechnics. It's true: *Pinoy* listeners do delight in being blown away by a singer's powerful high notes, and if their eardrums aren't given an aural rinsing in this wise, they're disappointed.

Unfortunately, there's little that's artistic about constant belting, so Regine's growth as a performing artist suffered. Only much later did she heed cautionary comments about her performance, and opt for greater variety and subtlety in her singing.

More successful

She also re-launched her acting career—and, this time, she was much more successful. Now that she was older, perfect looks were no longer absolutely required, so Regine clicked by playing kooky characters in a series of dizzy and ditzy romantic comedies.

Here again, however, she was criticized for being too kneejerk-kooky, so the effect of her performance was strained and—that word again—trying-hard.

Despite the brickbats, however, there's no denying that, two decades after she launched her professional career, Regine is at the top of her game. She has many concerts, hit albums, performance tours abroad, TV shows, movies—why, she's a veritable one-woman entertainment conglomerate!

Now that she's marking a major landmark, however, Regine could reevaluate her career thus far, and opt to plan it better, to meet the exigencies and realities of the next 10 or 20 years.

Revealing outfits

For starters, she could worry about her look as a performer and TV host these days, which she's been trying to jazz and sex up with revealing outfits. Yes, if you've been around for a while, you've got to keep surprising your public—but, the operative word is *surprising*, not shocking your audience.

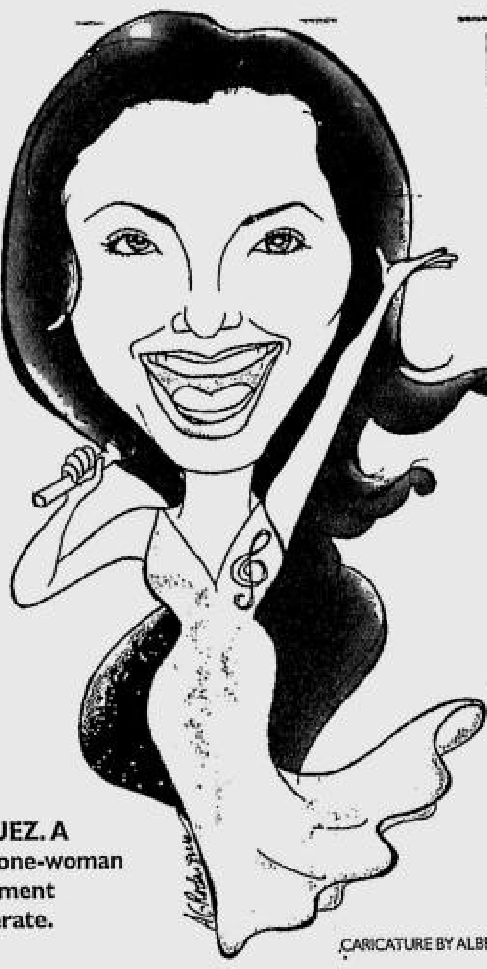
Regine also needs to face up to rumors about her controversial love life. Whether the rumors are true or not, they tend to confound the younger members of her audience, so some clarification—as in clearing away the debris—is decidedly in order.

In terms of artistry, Regine could try much harder to use her popularity, not just to give her fans what they want, but also to open up new musical horizons for them, and to develop herself more determinedly as a performing artist.

She should also look for newer musical fields to conquer abroad—not the usual Fil-Am audience, but a truly international one. That'll take a lot of doing, but with her talent and experience, she could pull it off.

Finally, in the movies, Regine should play more age-appropriate roles, and do away with the artificially daft and ditzy acting shticks that some of her injudicious directors have foisted on her.

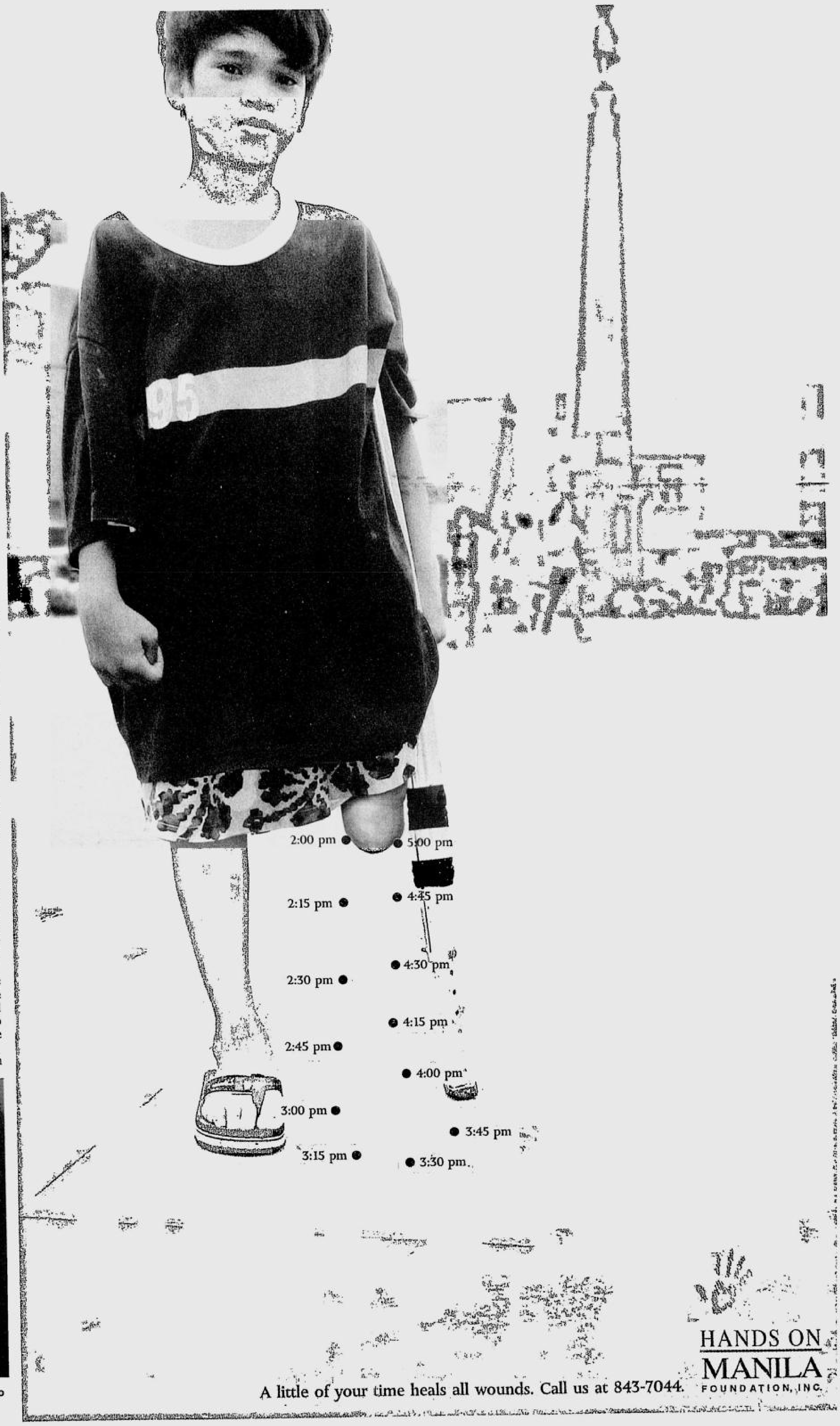
If she finally presents herself onscreen as her own person, Regine's fans could love her all the more for it!



VELASQUEZ. A veritable one-woman entertainment conglomerate.

CARICATURE BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

REGINE should look for new musical fields to conquer.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Monique, Pinky, Juno topbill NVC's 'The Good Body'

By Rito P. Asilo

WILSON, AMADOR AND HENARES. Diverse female voices.

AFTER ITS SUCCESSFUL staging of Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Aspects of Love" here and in Singapore, the New Voice Company returns to the local theater scene with its 12th year offering, Eve Ensler's off-Broadway show, "The Good Body," now newly minted as a provocative three-hander from its original one-woman, standup-comic format, which Ensler herself starred in.

This time, the irrepressibly witty feminist's themes go beyond the woman's most intimate anatomical part. Make no mistake, though, like the international hit, "The Vagina Monologues," Ensler's latest production is not for prudes.

Heartbreaking vignettes

Based on interviews conducted over the years, the new play discusses how women perceive their body image as an internalization of cultural—and psychological—baggage, as shown in a series of hilarious, dramatic, thoughtful and heartbreaking vignettes that cover the spectrum of oppression and repression, whether in upscale Manhattan or in third-world Kabul.

Giving life to these diverse female voices are three of Philippine theater's most exciting actresses: **Monique Wilson, Juno Henares** and **Pinky Amador,** who infuse humor, drama and power into wacky monologues and moving scenes devised from the experiences of women who include beautiful film star, Isabella Rossellini, and Cosmopolitan's founder, Helen Gurley Brown.

Bittersweet

Alternately touching, ironic and hilarious are the bittersweet tales of courageous, faceless women of different races, ages and religions, who tell their stories as they brave life's neverending battles, like the Afghan women who risk life and limb—for the visceral taste of vanilla ice cream!

As with NVC's other shows, the theater company's latest project doesn't just offer rip-roaring fun and polished theatrical entertainment, but also a relevant artistic platform that provokes discourse over timely issues:

Intimate journey

Joining Ensler, Wilson, Henares and Amador on this intricate journey are women from many countries—from Africa and Afghanistan to India and New York. With their stories, they examine their battles with the bulge, plastic surgery, botox injections, breast implants and fierce gym instructors. They have to learn to come to terms with rape, physical and emotional abuse, low self-esteem—and saggy tummies!

"The Good Body" will have a limited engagement at the Music Museum on Nov. 10 and 11 at 8 p.m. Call 896-5497, or visit www.newvoicecompany.com.

ENSLER. Worthy follow-up to "The Vagina Monologues."

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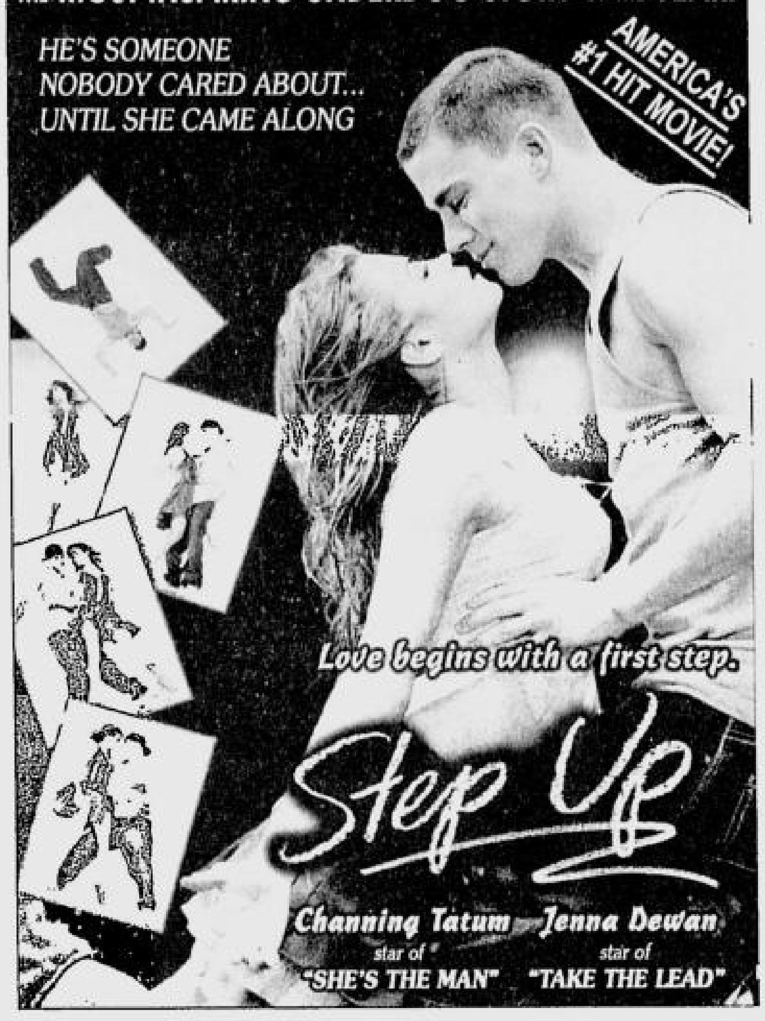
WICKER MAN

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
DEVIL WEARS PRADA
INGRATA
FIRST DAY HIGH
SNAKES ON A PLANE
WICKER MAN
ZOOM

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
WICKER MAN
FIRST DAY HIGH
ZOOM
CRANK

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

SHOWTIME EVENT CALENDAR
GET 2 TICKETS FOR FREE!
2006 The Power of Music
TEA CAN DO THAT!
Buy 2 Lipton Tea Boxes
P345
PAROKYA NI EDGAR
OCTOBER 6, 2006
SM MEGAMALL CINEMA 10 • 9:00PM
VISIT YOUR NEAREST POPPERS SNACKBARS AT THE SM CINEMAS:
•SM MEGAMALL Cinema 1 (0922-8191473)
•SM NORTH EDSA Cinema 7 (0922-8191475)
•SM MANILA Cinema 6 (0922-8191476)
•SM CENTERPOINT Cinema 3 (0922-8191440)
•SM MALL OF ASIA Cinema 4 (0922-8191468)
Sponsored by:
Media Partners:
JobsDB.com
iFM 93.9
*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA



2ND WEEK
MTRCB RATING ▸ PG-13 | children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
MANILA's MOST TALKED-ABOUT ROMANTIC-DANCE MOVIE
THE MOST INSPIRING UNDERDOG STORY OF THE YEAR!
HE'S SOMEONE NOBODY CARED ABOUT... UNTIL SHE CAME ALONG
AMERICA'S #1 HIT MOVIE!
Love begins with a first step.
Step Up
Channing Tatum star of "SHE'S THE MAN"
Jenna Dewan star of "TAKE THE LEAD"

ARANETA CENTER
Gateway Ali MALL FarmersPlaza
Araneta Center
3-DAY SMASH DOWN SALE
UP TO 50% OFF ON GREAT SELECTIONS
SEPT 29, 30 & OCT 1
BEFORE & AFTER SHOPPING DINE AT OVER 300 FOOD OUTLETS AROUND THE CENTER • COME EARLY & AVOID THE RUSH
For more information, call 911-5555 or log on to ticketnet.com.ph & aranetacenter.net
THE ONLY CINEPLEX IN THE COUNTRY Gateway CINEPLEX*10 DOLBY DIGITAL-EX

FLYBOYS 12:30 / 3:30 / 6:30 / 9:30	FIRST DAY HIGH 12.20 / 2:40 / 5.00 / 7.20 / 9.40	ZOOM 12.55 / 3:05 / 5:15 / 7:25 / 9:35	
THE BREED 12:40 / 4:50 / 9:00	DEAD OR ALIVE 1:25 / 3:30 / 5:35 / 7:40 / 9:45	JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE 2:30 / 7:10	
TWILIGHT DANCERS 12:20 / 5:00 / 9:40	STEP UP 2:00 / 4:30 / 7:00 / 9:30 CRANK 2:45 / 6:55	THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA 5:00 9:40 YOU ARE THE ONE 12:20 / 2:40 / 7:20	ZOOM 2:30 / 4:40 / 6:50 / 9:00

Ali MALL 5

ZOOM 12:10 R3 / 1:40 / 3:50 / 6:00 / 8:10	FLYBOYS 11.40 / 2.40 / 5.40 / 8.40	DEAD OR ALIVE 12:20 / 2:25 / 4:30 / 6:35 / 8:40
POSSESSED BY EVIL 1:00 / 3:25 / 5:50 / 8:20	FIRST DAY HIGH 12:10 R4 / 1:30 / 3:50 / 6:10 / 8:30	

MTRCB, SEAFCTV team up to boost child-sensitive programs

By Rica Arevalo

A SYMPOSIUM ON TELEVISION LITERACY was recently held at St. Scholastica's College with Southeast Asian Foundation for Children and Television (SEAFCTV) president Edgardo Roces and Movie Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) chair Maria Consoliza Laguardia as guests.

"The biggest concern we've encountered going around the country is people asking us what TV programs are good enough for their children," shared Roces.

Alarming scenes

The foundation initiated the Columbia Study, which presented alarming scenes shown on local TV: Children wearing sexy clothes, dancing provocatively; TV hosts confusing child contestants as they dish out double-meaning jokes; sexually provocative cyber chat and multimedia messages broadcast on the small screen, etc.

To address the urgent need for reform, the foundation compiled copies of TV shows and commercials from all networks, and presented them to parents from all walks of life to let them decide which shows are child-friendly. Hence, the Anak-TV seal was born.

Coveted seal

TV networks now compete to get the coveted seal. "There are advertisers who don't want their products connected with shows that are perceived as *bastos*. We are pleased to have advertisers who are concerned about our children's well-being," Roces said.

SEAFCTV works hand in hand with the MTRCB to create greater awareness of child-sensitive issues.

ROCES. Urgent need for reform.

Censors chief Laguardia said at the symposium, "*Sa totoo lang*, despite my position as MTRCB chair, *isa sa pinakagusto ko ay ang makakita ng artista*—that's how *babaw* I am. I don't like politics. The MTRCB does not claim to be righteous, but the board has the will to implement the law and do what we think is right for the viewing public."

She further confessed: "I've been widowed for nine years now. When my husband passed away, my children were only nine, 11 and 13 years old. It was not easy to be both father and a mother."

Her advice to parents: "Learn to nurture your children well, especially while they're still toddlers. Parents nowadays are much too busy with work—*minsan, napapabayaan na ang mga anak nila,* who are left to the *yaya*. Make time for them!"

Self-regulation

She encourages self-regulation among networks. Her plea is for the public to view the MTRCB in a different light: "We're not that conservative, we're not harsh. We just have a heart for the viewing public," she stressed.

SEAFCTV will sponsor a video contest, "Batang Brodkaster Videos by, for, about Children," for young people 18 years old and below. Films shouldn't be longer than 20 minutes, and should focus on family, social issues, school life, nature and community. Deadline for submission is on Nov. 17. Visit www.anaktvweb.com.

Shakespeare

From page G4

treat music lovers to an evening of timeless classics, pop and selections from the music of Il Divo, Bocelli, Groban and Bublé at 9 p.m. today at Hard Rock Café, Makati City.

Special guests are Ana Feleo and Kelly Badon. Call 0917 520-1932.

Mall tours

Jed Madela promotes his "Songs Rediscovered" album at SM Megamall at 5 p.m. today. The Imago "Blush" album tour hits SM Sta. Rosa at 5 p.m. today.

Movies on TV

On HBO, tomorrow at 8 p.m., "The Big Preview: World Trade Center." Oct. 2 at 6:30 a.m., "Urban Cowboy." Oct. 3 6:30 a.m., "Private Benjamin." Oct. 4 at 10 a.m., "Postcards from the Edge." Oct. 5 at 12:30 p.m., "Back to the Future, 2" Oct. 6 at 9 a.m., "Beetlejuice."

On Cinemax, tomorrow at 9:20 a.m., "Wonderland." Oct. 2 at 6 a.m., "It's a Wonderful Life." 2:40 p.m., "Cape Fear." 6 p.m., "Arlington Road." Oct. 3 at 3:30 p.m., "Rio Bravo." Oct. 4 at 4:45 p.m., "The Stars Fell on Henrietta." Oct. 5 at 11:35 a.m., "The Eddy Duchin Story." Oct. 6 at 12:05 p.m., "Gothika" 8 p.m., "The Last Samurai."

'GamePlan'

Tomorrow at 1:30 p.m. on Studio 23, "GamePlan" features the UST Growling Tigers, the California Grapescapade Culinary Treasure Hunt, and the show's outtakes and bloopers.

SKARLET. Light jazz, blues and ska artist.

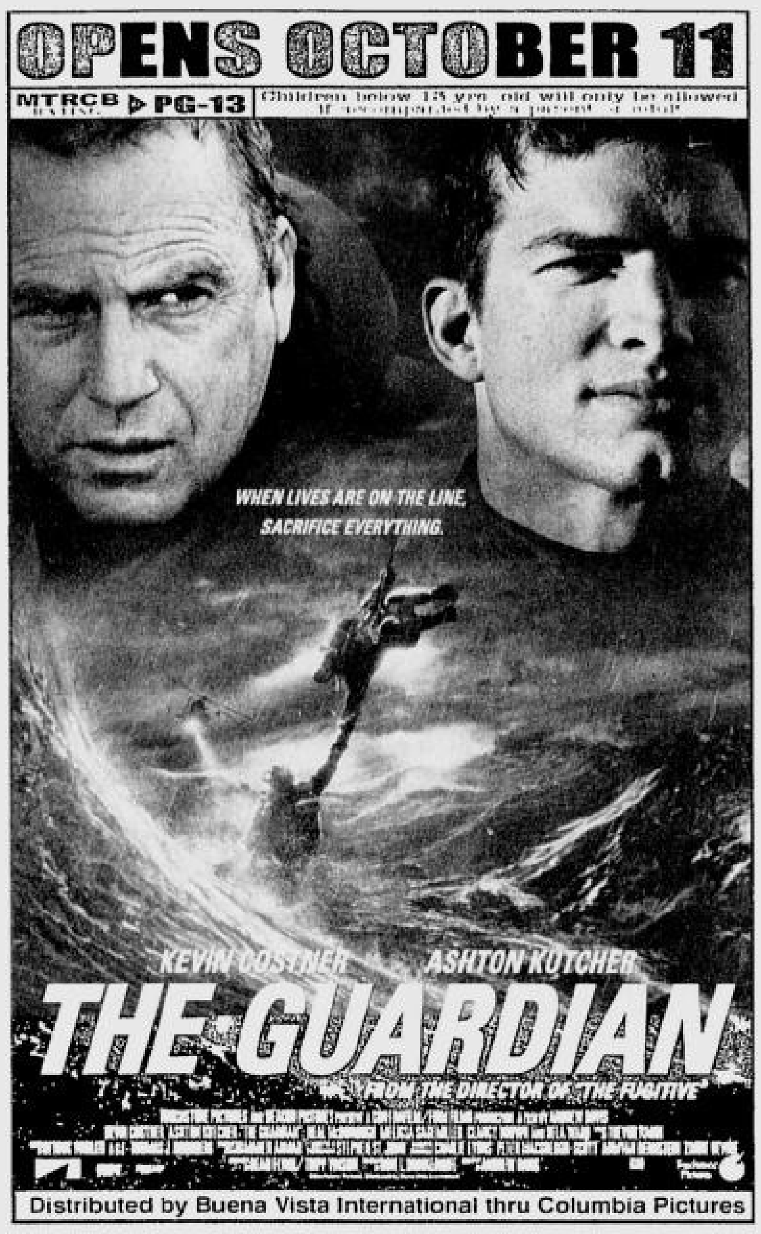
EASTWOOD CINEMAS
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND EX
For inquiries, call
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

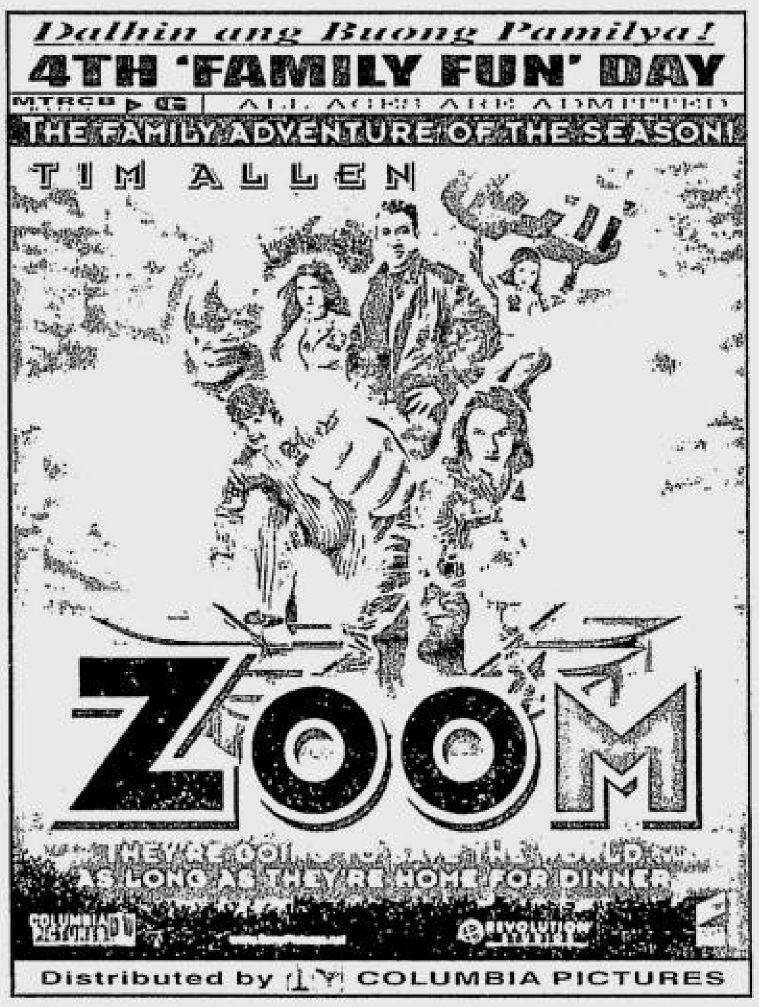
1 STEP UP
1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00
PG-13

2 ZOOM
2:00, 4:10, 6:25, 8:40, 11:00
G

3 FLYBOYS
2:20, 5:20, 8:20, 11:10
PG-13

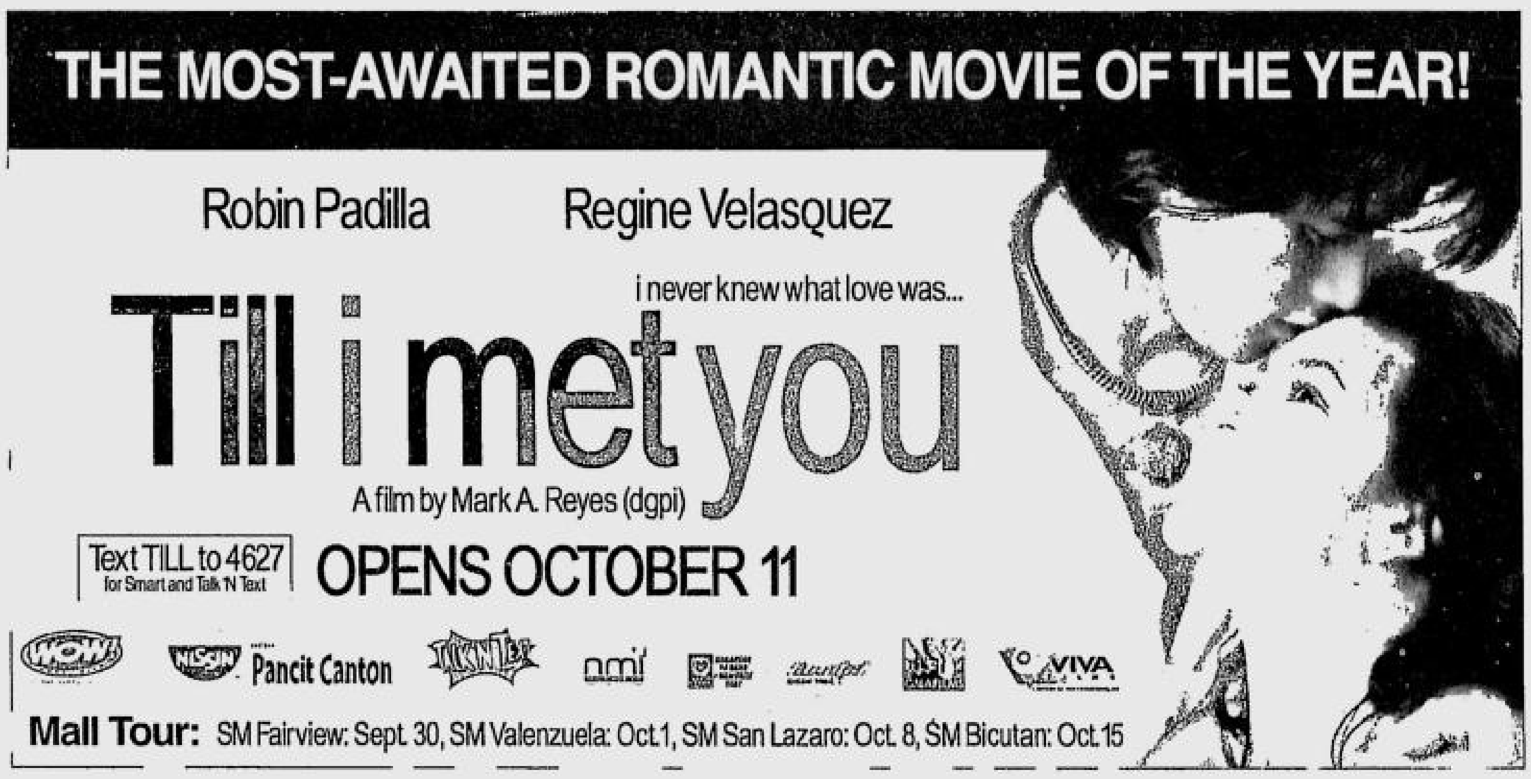
4 FIRST DAY HIGH
2:05, 4:35, 7:05, 10:00
GP


OPENS OCTOBER 11
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
WHEN LIVES ARE ON THE LINE, SACRIFICE EVERYTHING.
KEVIN COSTNER
ASHTON KUTCHER
THE GUARDIAN
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF "THE FUGITIVE"
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures


Dalhin ang Buong Pamilya!
4TH 'FAMILY FUN' DAY
MTRCB ▶ G ALL AGES ARE ADMITTED
THE FAMILY ADVENTURE OF THE SEASON!

Distributed by COLUMBIA PICTURES

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
#1 MOVIE IN MANILA
NO RULES. NO MERCY. NO SURRENDER
2ND WEEK
DOA
DEAD OR ALIVE
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF "THE TRANSPORTER"


THE MOST-AWAITED ROMANTIC MOVIE OF THE YEAR!
Robin Padilla Regine Velasquez
i never knew what love was...
Till i met you
A film by Mark A. Reyes (dgpi)
Text TILL to 4627 for Smart and Talk 'N Text
OPENS OCTOBER 11

Mall Tour: SM Fairview: Sept. 30, SM Valenzuela: Oct.1, SM San Lazaro: Oct. 8, SM Bicutan: Oct.15

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

CINEPLEX
1 ZOOM
2 FLY BOYS
3 FIRST DAY HIGH
4 STEP UP
PREMIERE
JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 ZOOM
2 FLY BOYS
3 FIRST DAY HIGH
4 DEAD OR ALIVE

starmall EDSA-SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150
3 FIRST DAY HIGH
4 DOLBY DIGITAL EX ZOOM
5 FLY BOYS

metropolis star
www.chicktheciity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504205, 8433994
1 TWILIGHT DANCERS
2 ZOOM
3 FIRST DAY HIGH
4 DEAD OR ALIVE

THEATRES
1 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 FIRST DAY HIGH
3 CRANK

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-5271
SNAKE ON A PLANE
FIRST DAY HIGH
RESERVED
RESERVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 STEP UP
2 DEAD OR ALIVE
3 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
4 FIRST DAY HIGH
5 POSSESSED BY EVIL
6 ZOOM
7 FLY BOYS
8 THE BREED
9 YOU ARE THE ONE
10 FIRST DAY HIGH

Blue Wave
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 (DOLBY) FIRST DAY HIGH
2 (DOLBY) ZOOM
3 (DOLBY) DEAD OR ALIVE
4 (DOLBY) RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228
1 (DOLBY) DEAD OR ALIVE
2 FLY BOYS
3 FIRST DAY HIGH
4 TWILIGHT DANCERS
5 ZOOM

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 FIRST DAY HIGH
2 CRANK
3 STAY ALIVE
4 RESERVED

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 FIRST DAY HIGH
2 ZOOM
3 DEAD OR ALIVE

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 MIAMI VICE
2 CRANK

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 FIRST DAY HIGH
2 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
3 ZOOM
4 THE WICKER MAN

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 MIAMI VICE
2 CRANK

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 STEP UP
2 FLY BOYS
3 ZOOM
4 FIRST DAY HIGH

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
2 FIRST DAY HIGH
3 ZOOM
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
2 ZOOM
3 FIRST DAY HIGH
4 TWILIGHT DANCERS

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 FIRST DAY HIGH
3 CRANK

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 FIRST DAY HIGH
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 SNAKE ON A PLANE
4 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 ZOOM
2 FIRST DAY HIGH
3 CRANK

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736
1 FIRST DAY HIGH
2 CRANK

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 SCOOP

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 TWILIGHT DANCERS
2 IRA
3 LINGO LANG ANG PAHINGA
4 SCOOP

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 STORMBREAKER
2 GAWIN SA DILIM
3 FIRST DAY HIGH
4 KANGKONG
5 ZOOM

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 WILD ORCHIDS
2 FIRST DAY HIGH
3 YOU ME & DUPREE
4 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 MIAMI VICE
2 DOS EKIS

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Shakespeare updated on Hallmark Channel

MONTAGE

OCTOBER IS A SPECIAL MONTH on the Hallmark Channel every Sunday at 9 p.m., because it's telecasting Shakespearean classics—rendered with a contemporary touch!

On Oct. 8, for instance, the sparring between Beatrice and Benedick in "Much Ado About Nothing" takes place in a newsroom. Bitter ex-lovers Beatrice Evans (Sarah Parish) and Benedick Taylor (Damian Lewis) are unwittingly reunited as news co-anchors, and this drives the whole newsroom crazy!

On Oct. 15, "Macbeth" is updated, with a head chef (James McAvoy) spending hours perfecting culinary masterpieces in the kitchen, but the restaurant's owner is the one getting praises for its success.

On Oct. 22, "Taming of the Shrew" becomes a tale about a gifted politician (Kate Minola) who's being groomed for bigger things, but is criticized for being crabby.

The electorate prefers married officials, so when the passionate and eccentric Petrucio (Rufus Sewell) proposes, she says yes. But, can these two oddball characters manage their marriage?

And, on Oct. 29, "A Midsummer Night's Dream" now revolves around former hippies (Bill Patterson and Imelda Staunton) celebrating their 35th wedding anniversary and the engagement of their flighty daughter—who shocks everybody by announcing that she loves another man!

PARIS AND LEWIS. Play the Bard's Beatrice and Benedick, fighting and feuding in the newsroom.

Skarlet at Celebrity Lounge

Catch the Skarlet fever at Celebrity Lounge Piano Bar as the light jazz, blues and ska artist performs Wednesdays starting at 9:30 p.m. The soulful singer is accompanied by the lounge's resident pianist, Ariel.

Skarlet's album, "Skarlet, the Powder Room Stories," will be released by Candid Records next month. (Celebrity Lounge is at the corner of N. Domingo and Doña Juana Rodriguez in San Juan, behind Broadway Centrum.)

'The Departed'

Martin Scorsese's latest action-thriller, "The Departed," will have its gala premiere tonight at Greenbelt 3. The film boasts of a powerhouse cast led by Jack Nicholson, Leonardo DiCaprio, Matt Damon, Mark Wahlberg, Martin Sheen and Alec Baldwin.

'The Guardian'

The new action-adventure, "The Guardian," starring Kevin Costner and Ashton Kutcher, will have special sneak previews on Oct. 2 and 3. In the film, Costner plays a legendary rescue swimmer who trains a young swimming champion (Kutcher) to also effect heroic rescues in the ice-cold Bering Sea.

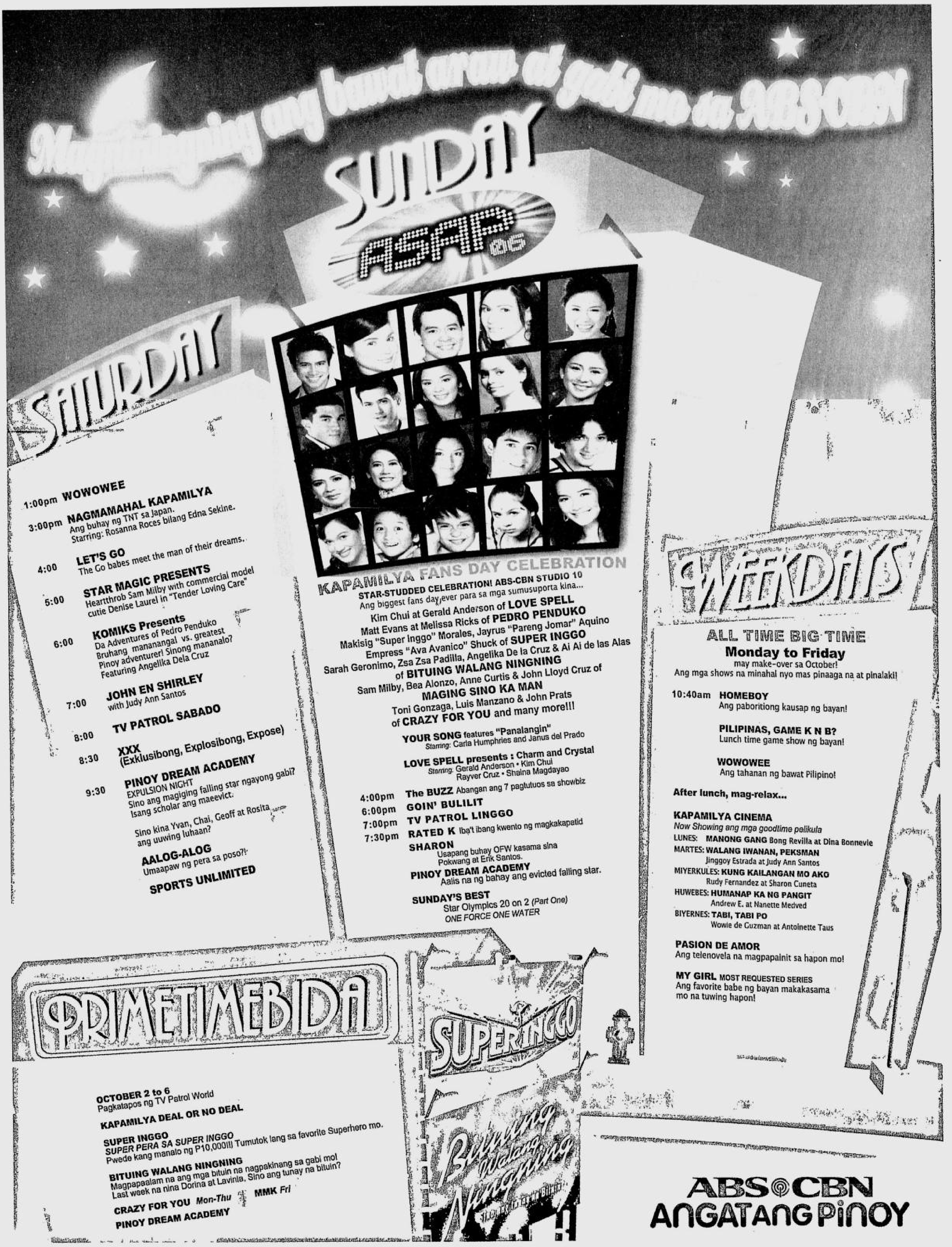
Easy English seminars

Corban Learning Center is slating a new series of Easy English seminars starting on Oct. 7 and 8, 14 and 15, from 2 to 5 p.m. The comprehensive package of conversation, grammar and writing is for college students, housewives and professionals, and runs for 30 hours. Call 842-6665 or 0917 629-7718.

Classical meets pop

Tenor Jonathan Badon will

SHAKESPEARE/ G3



Magningning ang bawat araw at gabi mo sa ABS-CBN
SUNDAY
ASAP 06
SATURDAY
WEEKDAYS
PRIMETIME BIDA
SUPER INGGO
Bituing Walang Ningning

SATURDAY

1:00pm **WOWOWEE**

3:00pm **NAGMAMAHAL KAPAMILYA**
Ang buhay ng TNT sa Japan.
Starring: Rosanna Roces bilang Edna Sekine.

4:00 **LET'S GO**
The Go babes meet the man of their dreams.

5:00 **STAR MAGIC PRESENTS**
Heartthrob Sam Milby with commercial model cutie Denise Laurel in "Tender Loving Care"

6:00 **KOMIKS Presents**
Da Adventures of Pedro Penduko
Bruhang manananggal vs. greatest Pinoy adventurer! Sinong mananalo?
Featuring Angelika Dela Cruz

7:00 **JOHN EN SHIRLEY**
with Judy Ann Santos

8:00 **TV PATROL SABADO**

8:30 **XXX**
(Exklusibong, Explosibong, Expose)

9:30 **PINOY DREAM ACADEMY**
EXPULSION NIGHT
Sino ang magiging falling star ngayong gabi?
Isang scholar ang maeevict.

Sino kina Yvan, Chai, Geoff at Rosita ang uuwing luhaan?

AALOG-ALOG
Umaapaw ng pera sa poso?!

SPORTS UNLIMITED

SUNDAY ASAP 06

KAPAMILYA FANS DAY CELEBRATION
STAR-STUDDED CELEBRATION! ABS-CBN STUDIO 10
Ang biggest fans day ever para sa mga sumusuporta kina...
Kim Chui at Gerald Anderson of **LOVE SPELL**
Matt Evans at Melissa Ricks of **PEDRO PENDUKO**
Makisig "Super Inggo" Morales, Jayrus "Pareng Jomar" Aquino
Empress "Ava Avanico" Shuck of **SUPER INGGO**
Sarah Geronimo, Zsa Zsa Padilla, Angelika De la Cruz & Ai Ai de las Alas
of **BITUING WALANG NINGNING**
Sam Milby, Bea Alonzo, Anne Curtis & John Lloyd Cruz of
MAGING SINO KA MAN
Toni Gonzaga, Luis Manzano & John Prats
of **CRAZY FOR YOU** and many more!!!

YOUR SONG features **"Panalangin"**
Starring: Carla Humphries and Janus del Prado

LOVE SPELL presents : Charm and Crystal
Starring: Gerald Anderson • Kim Chui
Rayver Cruz • Shaina Magdayao

4:00pm **The BUZZ** Abangan ang 7 pagtutuos sa showbiz
6:00pm **GOIN' BULILIT**
7:00pm **TV PATROL LINGGO**
7:30pm **RATED K** Iba't ibang kwento ng magkakapatid
SHARON
Usapang buhay OFW kasama sina Pokwang at Erik Santos.
PINOY DREAM ACADEMY
Aalis na ng bahay ang evicted falling star.

SUNDAY'S BEST
Star Olympics 20 on 2 *(Part One)*
ONE FORCE ONE WATER

WEEKDAYS

ALL TIME BIG TIME
Monday to Friday
may make-over sa October!
Ang mga shows na minahal nyo mas pinaaga na at pinalaki!

10:40am **HOMEBOY**
Ang paboritiong kausap ng bayan!

PILIPINAS, GAME K N B?
Lunch time game show ng bayan!

WOWOWEE
Ang tahanan ng bawat Pilipino!

After lunch, mag-relax...

KAPAMILYA CINEMA
Now Showing ang mga goodtime pelikula
LUNES: **MANONG GANG** Bong Revilla at Dina Bonnevie
MARTES: **WALANG IWANAN, PEKSMAN**
Jinggoy Estrada at Judy Ann Santos
MIYERKULES: **KUNG KAILANGAN MO AKO**
Rudy Fernandez at Sharon Cuneta
HUWEBES: **HUMANAP KA NG PANGIT**
Andrew E. at Nanette Medved
BIYERNES: **TABI, TABI PO**
Wowie de Guzman at Antoinette Taus

PASION DE AMOR
Ang telenovela na magpapainit sa hapon mo!

MY GIRL MOST REQUESTED SERIES
Ang favorite babe ng bayan makakasama mo na tuwing hapon!

PRIMETIME BIDA

OCTOBER 2 to 6
Pagkatapos ng TV Patrol World

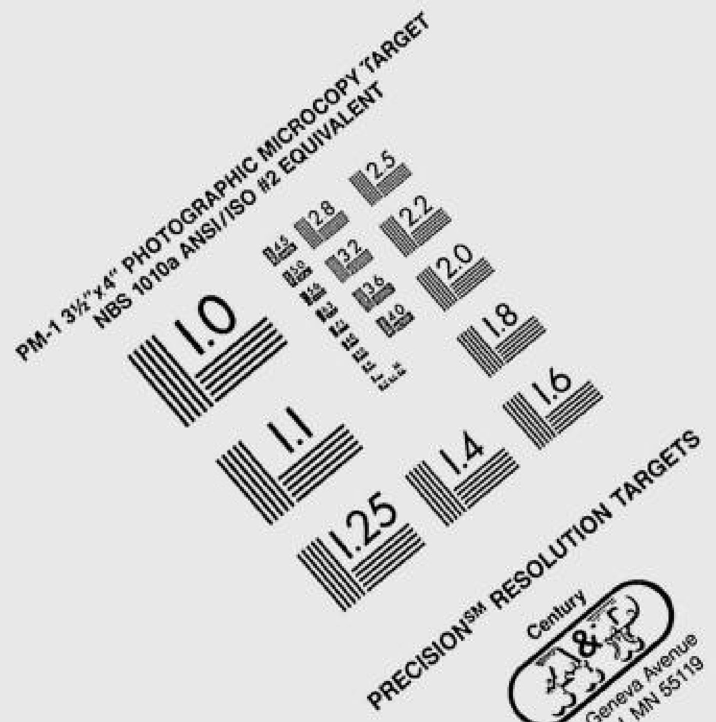
KAPAMILYA DEAL OR NO DEAL

SUPER INGGO
SUPER PERA SA SUPER INGGO
Pwede kang manalo ng P10,000!!! Tumutok lang sa favorite Superhero mo.

BITUING WALANG NINGNING
Magpapaalam na ang mga bituin na nagpakinang sa gabi mo!
Last week na nina Dorina at Lavinia. Sino ang tunay na bituin?

CRAZY FOR YOU *Mon-Thu* **MMK** *Fri*
PINOY DREAM ACADEMY

ABS-CBN
ANGAT ANG PINOY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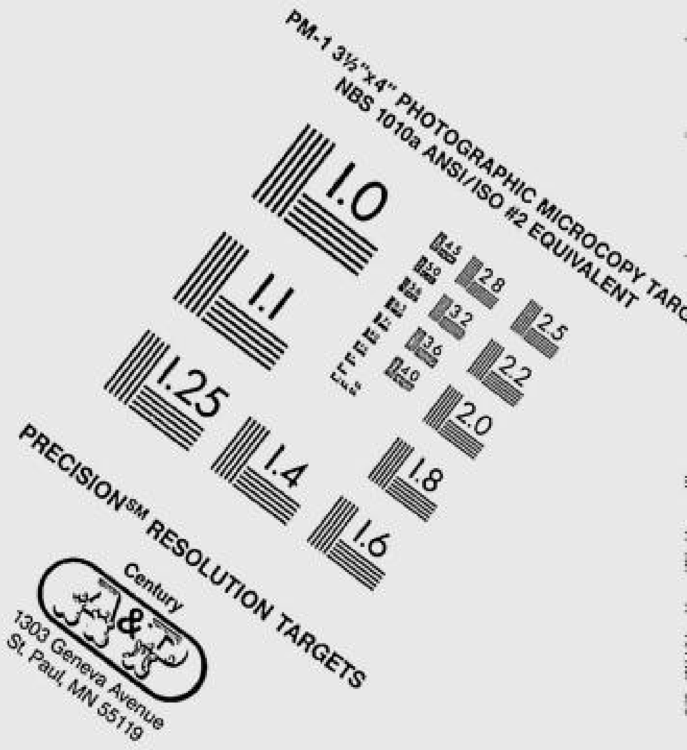
Century
1303 Geneva Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55119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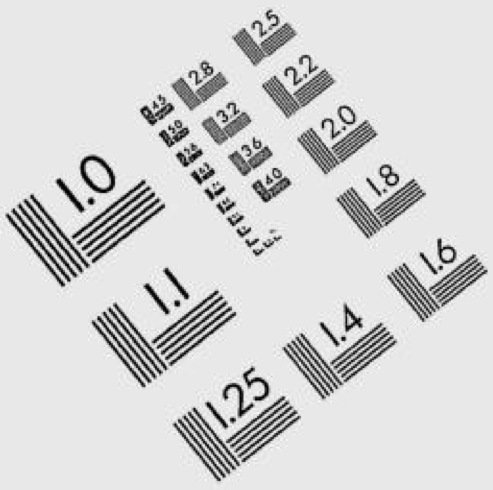
PRECISION℠ RESOLUTION TARGETS
Century
1303 Geneva Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55119

IMAGE EVALUATION TEST TARGET (MT-3)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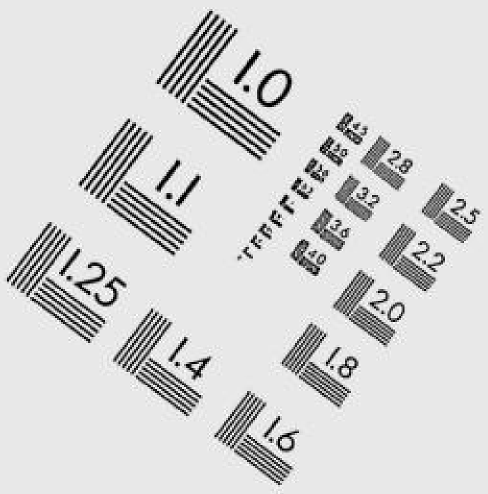
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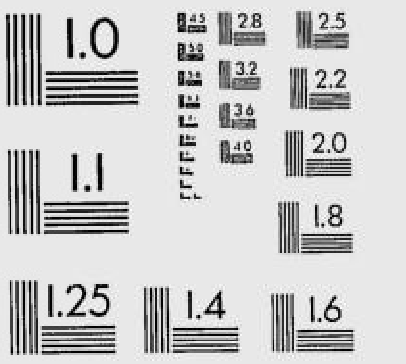
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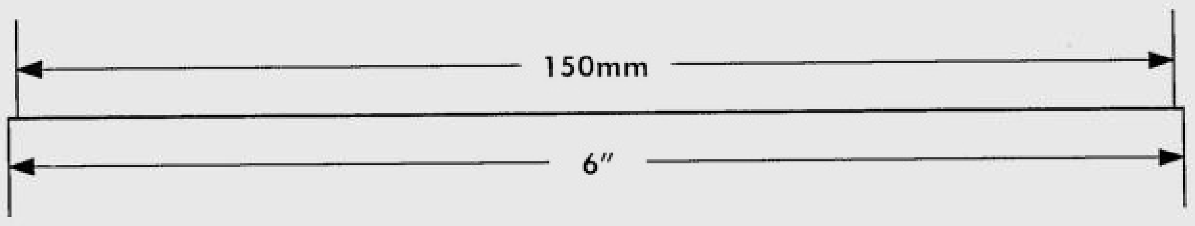

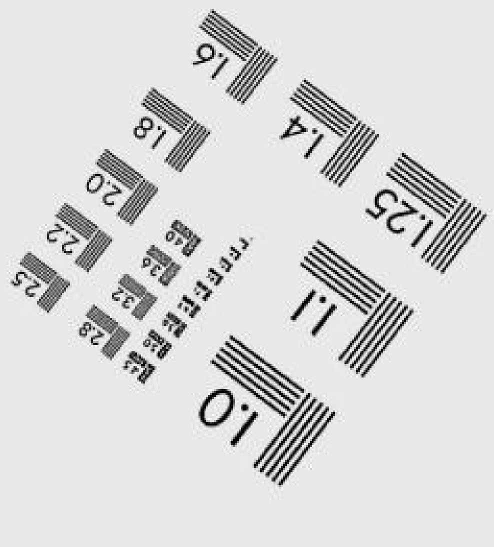
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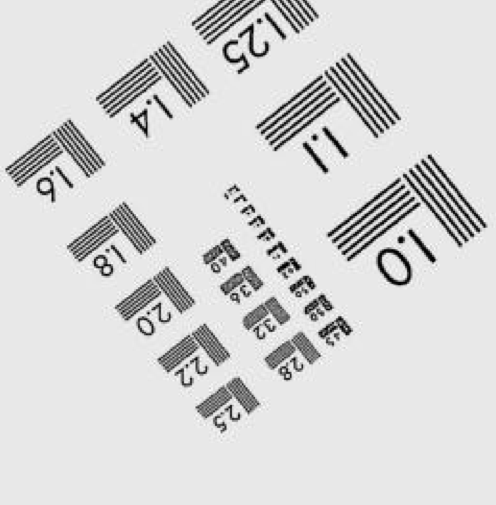
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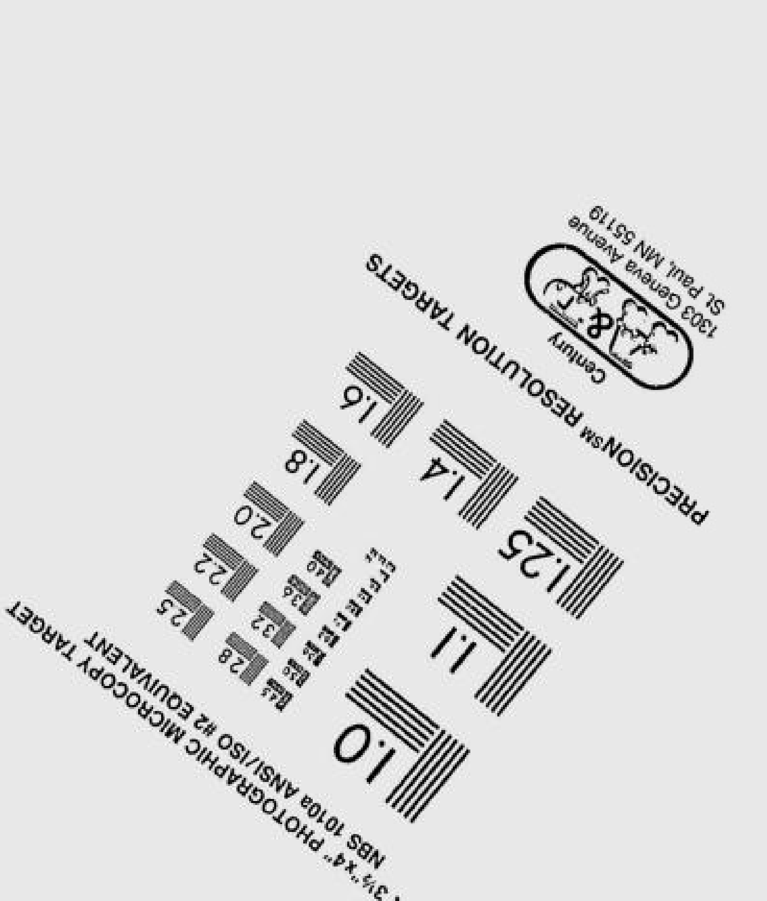
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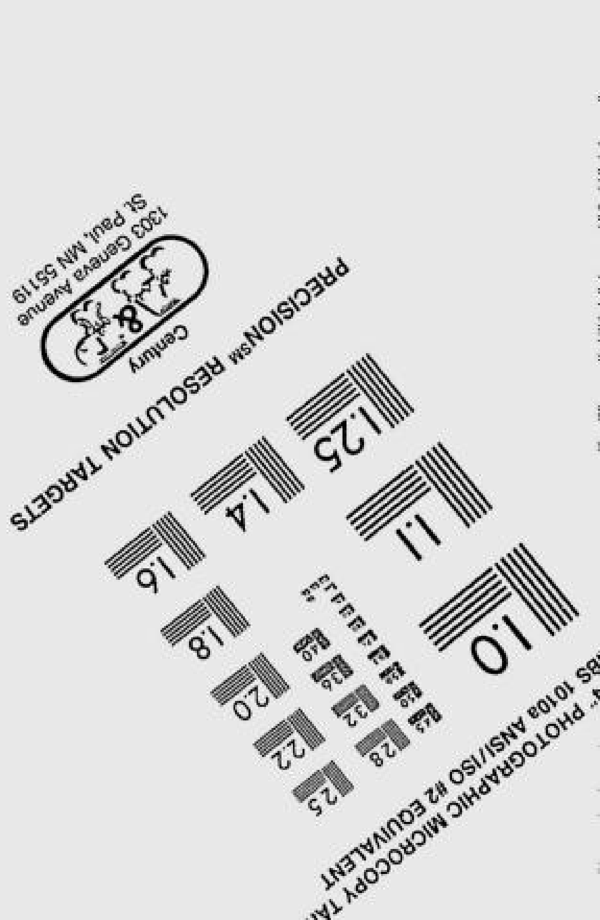
PRECISION℠ RESOLUTION TARGETS
Century
1303 Geneva Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55119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PRECISION℠ RESOLUTION TARGETS
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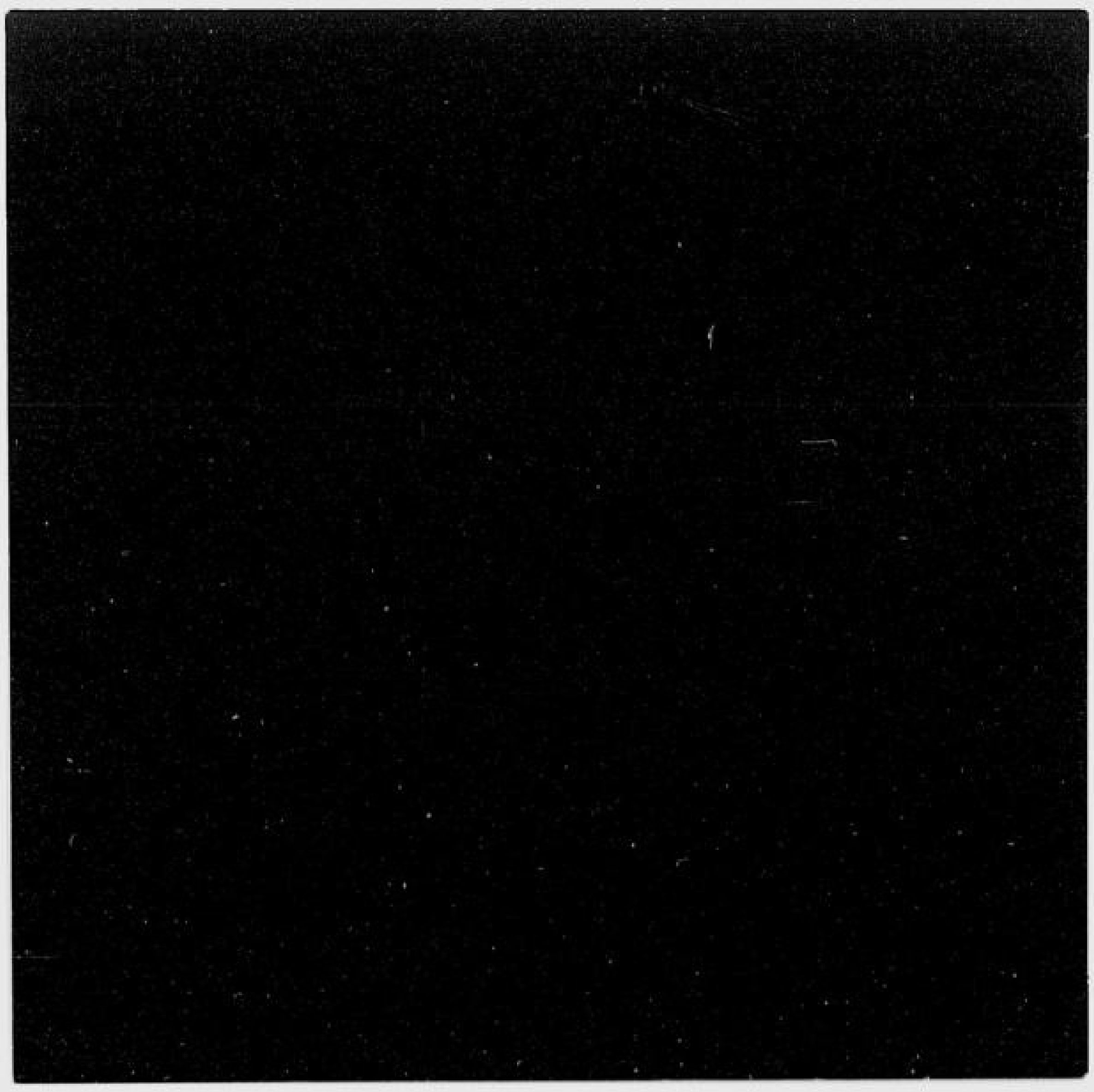

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